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ABSTRACT

The 1989 Georgia Survey of Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Use was conducted in 373 schools throughout Georgia. The stratified random sample was obtained from schools that participated in the 1987 survey (in which 93% of the school systems in Georgia participated) and were selected randomly from strata based on size of community and geographic location. The sample size for the 1989 survey was 161,153. This study also compared the findings of the 1989 survey to results of the survey conducted in 1987. Overall about one-fourth of the junior high and one-half the senior high students reported drinking beer and/or wine coolers within the past year. About 20% of the senior high students reported getting intoxicated when drinking beer and 8% reported getting intoxicated drinking wine coolers. About one-third of the senior high students reported using liquor. One in seven students in grades 9-12 admitted to smoking marijuana within the past year. Two-thirds of these students indicated that they get highly intoxicated when they smoke marijuana. Use of drugs and alcohol did not occur at school. The most popular places of drug and alcohol use were the student's home, a friend's home, and in other places in the community. For older students, a car was also a popular place to drink and smoke marijuana. This pattern of drug use suggests that drug prevention is a community-wide problem that must be addressed by parents, law enforcement, business and community leaders, churches, and others in the community as well as by schools. (ABL)

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The 1989 Georgia Survey of Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Use

Volume I: The Narrative Report for Survey Findings

Prepared for:

Georgia State Department of Education

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE 1989 GEORGIA SURVEY OF ADOLESCENT DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

The 1989 Georgia Survey of Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Use was conducted in 373 schools throughout Georgia. The stratified random sample was obtained from schools that participated in the 1987 survey (93% of the school systems in Georgia participated in the 1987 survey) and were selected randomly from strata based on size of community and geographic location. The sample size for the 1989 survey was 161,153. This study also compared the findings of the 1989 survey to results of the survey conducted in 1987.

Overall, about one-fourth of the junior high and one-half the senior high students reported drinking beer and/or wine coolers within the past year. About 20 percent of the senior high students reported getting intoxicated when drinking beer and 8 percent reported getting intoxicated when they drink wine coolers. About one-third of the senior high students reported using liquor, and about half these students reported reaching high levels of intoxication when they drank. It appears that not only is alcohol a gateway drug, but there is progression of alcohol use from beer and wine coolers to liquor. And, more students report getting highly intoxicated when they drink liquor than for other alcoholic beverages.

One in seven students (14.3%) in grades 9 through 12 admitted to smoking marijuana within the past year. Two-thirds of these students indicated that they get highly intoxicated when they smoke marijuana. Marijuana use by these young students is not "casual" use, rather students use marijuana to get "high." Use of other illicit drugs was low in comparison to the gateway drugs of alcohol and marijuana with illicit drug use reported by 4 to 6 percent of the senior high students. However, a very high percent of the students who use illicit drugs report usually becoming highly intoxicated when they use, suggesting that there are many Georgia students in need of professional help from drug dependency.

Use of drugs and alcohol did not occur at school. The most popular places of drug and alcohol use were the student's home, a friend's home, and in other places in the community. For older students, a car was also a popular place to drink and smoke marijuana. Weekends were by far the most popular time of use. This pattern of drug use suggests that drug prevention is a community-wide problem that must be addressed by parents, law enforcement, business and community leaders, churches, and others in the community as well as by schools.

Comparisons of 1987 and 1989 survey findings provide the following conclusions for Georgia students:

1. Fewer senior high students are drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana, but use rate of other illicit drugs has not changed. There was no change in use rate of alcohol or illicit drugs for junior high students.

2. For students who use illicit drugs, there was an increase in the percent who reach high levels of intoxication.

3. More students reported that using beer and wine coolers was hazardous to their health. This positive outcome was not evident for liquor or illicit drugs.

4. An increased percentage of junior and senior high students reported that alcohol and illicit drugs were "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get.

At a time when there is increased availability of drugs and alcohol, fewer students are using beer, wine coolers and marijuana, and illicit drug use has not appreciably increased. Gains have been made in student education and attitudes regarding the health effects of using beer and wine coolers. Prevention and education programs in Georgia are most likely having a positive impact on student drug and alcohol use.

However, for those students who report using illicit drugs, they appear to be doing so at a destructive rate. This finding suggests that more students are or will become dependent on these drugs and require professional treatment in the future. Drug and alcohol use among Georgia students remain a major problem and must receive the attention of community and government leaders throughout the state. The data contained in Volumes I and II need careful study by educators, law enforcement officials, health providers, and others involved in the battle against adolescent drug use. Annual surveys are strongly recommended to monitor the drug and alcohol use patterns and trends of Georgia students during the 1990's. Further, these data need to be made available to the communities and school systems throughout the state to enable them to monitor and study the problem at the local level.

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CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

Drug and alcohol use among adolescents remains as the most important factor impacting on the health and well-being of Georgia youth. To better understand this problem, a state-wide survey was conducted in 1987 to determine the nature and extent of drug and alcohol use among Georgia students. This near-census study (93% of the school systems in Georgia) included more than 300,000 students in grades 6 through 12. In the Fall of 1989, another similar survey was conducted to determine the status of adolescent drug and alcohol use two years later. This study, funded by the Georgia State Department of Education, utilized a sample of the schools surveyed in 1987. The 1989 survey included over 150,000 students in grades 6 through 12. Volume I of this report describes the findings from the 1989 school survey (Chapters II and III) and contrasts these findings to data obtained in 1987 (Chapter IV). A summary of the 1989 Georgia Survey is contained in Chapter V. Volume II contains the percentage data obtained from the 1989 Georgia survey.

I.A. Survey Procedures

Procedures for the 1989 survey of drug and alcohol use among Georgia youth were similar to those used in 1987 with the exception of the sampling procedures. Since a census study was not feasible due to funding constraints, a stratified random cluster sampling design was utilized to obtain schools and school systems to

participate in this study. Two strata were chosen for use in sample selection: geographic location (Congressional district) and size (enrollment) of school system. Within each Congressional district, school systems were randomly selected from within the stratum of size (based on enrollment). The three levels were large (usually urban), medium (usually suburban), and small (usually rural). Within the larger school systems, schools were randomly selected to participate, thus providing a more balanced sample.

The Georgia state-wide survey was conducted on a total school (building) level selected randomly using the geographic location and school system enrollment stratification variables. Of course, grade level was also a consideration as students in grades 6 through 12 were surveyed in this study.

Once the names of the schools were determined, a mailing list was developed and appropriate numbers of questionnaires were packed for delivery. A letter from Dr. Thomas J. Gleaton, President of PRIDE, Inc. was included in each packet or box providing the authorization of Dr. Werner Rogers, State School Superintendent and the date for return of the completed questionnaire to the central office. Also included in the boxes or packets of questionnaires were instruction forms to be used by the school coordinator (usually the principal) and by each teacher administering the PRIDE Questionnaires. School system coordinators were contacted by telephone to explain the procedures. Survey forms were delivered to schools and completed forms returned to the PRIDE office using UPS. The completed survey forms were returned

to PRIDE during late October and early November, 1989.

PRIDE Questionnaire forms were scored utilizing a NCS OpScan 21 model 100 optical scanner, and data were analyzed utilizing computer programs especially designed for processing these data. Analyses included computation of percentage tables for the various grade levels by male, female, and total sample. These data are contained in Volume II of this report.

In addition to the analyses of the 1989 school surveys, other analyses were made to allow for contrasting 1989 findings to 1987 findings. Specifically, the 1989 school surveys included a small number of schools not surveyed in 1987. Therefore, to ensure maximum compatibility, the 1989 survey data were matched by school with the 1987 survey data. Because only a small number of schools were not included from the original sample in this matched sample, the differences between the overall sample and the matched sample were very small. The matched sample for 1989 was not included in Volume II, but may be obtained from PRIDE, Inc.

I.B. The Sample

The sample of Georgia students surveyed in 1989 consisted of 161,153 students in grades 6 thorough 12. Three hundred seventy-three (373) schools in 67 school districts participated in the survey. The number of male and female students were about the same with 49.7 percent male and 50.3 percent female. Fifty-seven percent were white, 40.5 percent were Black, and the remaining 2.5 percent were in other racial categories.

Father's full-time employment rate was 84.6 percent. Mother's full-time employment rate was 61.8 percent. Over 18 percent of the junior high students and over 50 percent of the senior high students reported part-time employment. About 20 percent of the students reported fathers with less than a high school education, and 28 percent with a college degree. Mother's educational levels were 18.2 percent with less than high school education and 25.4 percent with a college degree. Volume II: Survey Source Tables contains more specific demographic information about the sample of students in the 1989 Georgia Survey of Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Use.

I.B. Reporting the Results

Results of the 1989 Georgia Survey of Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Use are reported in Volume I: The Narrative Report on Survey Findings and Volume II: Survey Source Tables. In addition to Volumes I and II of this report, narrative reports were also prepared for each Congressional district in Georgia.

This survey provided a tremendous amount of percentage data (see Volume II). To place this information in a more manageable and usable form, Volume I: The Narrative Report on Survey Findings was prepared. It should be understood that the data contained in Volume II were utilized as the source data for tables and graphs in Volume I. Therefore, the reader may wish to consult Volume II for more detailed study of the survey findings.

After the Introduction chapter, Chapter I, the narrative

report is arranged in four additional chapters. Chapter II: Gateway Drugs contains information on cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana. The three forms of alcohol were included in the survey were beer, wine coolers, and liquor. Chapter III: Other Illicit Drugs provides information on cocaine, uppers (stimulants), downers (depressants), inhalants, and hallucinogens. Chapters II and III include percentage tables and graphs regarding prevalence and patterns of use of the various drugs included in the survey. These tables and graphs are located at the end of the specific section involving their discussion.

Chapter IV: Contrasts of 1989 Results to 1987 Results contains tables and graphs that compare the 1989 survey results with the 1987 results. A summary of survey findings appears in Chapter V. There is also a press release at the beginning of Volume I that can serve as an executive summary of survey findings. The press release of the Georgia state-wide survey results was held on _____, 1990.

CHAPTER II: GATEWAY DRUGS

The "gateway drugs" are defined in this report as cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana. In most states, alcohol and tobacco products are illegal when used by minors, but are legal when used by adults. However, they are generally easy to obtain and are widely used among the adolescent population. The alcoholic beverages surveyed were beer, wine coolers, and liquor. Although marijuana is itself a dangerous illicit drug, it often leads to use of more toxic and addictive drugs. Thus, marijuana is also considered a "gateway drug" because of its role in escalating drug use.

II.A. Use of Gateway Drugs

Prevalence of drug and alcohol use rates are probably the most used and reported findings from any drug survey. The PRIDE Questionnaire obtained student responses to questions on 1) first use of gateway drugs, 2) annual use of gateway drugs, and 3) intoxicating effects resulting from use of gateway drugs. These data provide useful information on the prevalence and patterns of gateway drug use. These findings were selected from the data contained in Volume II: Survey Source Tables and the reader is encouraged to study these data for more in-depth understanding of gateway drug use patterns by Georgia youth.

II.A.1 First Use of Gateway Drugs

Information on the approximate age that students first use

gateway drugs is important since prevention programs usually target students at various ages with information about specific drugs. It is also important from the standpoint that early use of these drugs are indicators of problem use later in adolescence or adulthood. Finally, the early use of gateway drugs is indicative of later use of the more toxic and addictive illicit drugs such as cocaine and hallucinogens.

II.A.1.a First Use of Cigarettes

Although tobacco is not usually considered to be a mind-altering or intoxicating drug, cigarettes are highly addicting and are considered one of the "gateway drugs" that can lead to use of illicit drugs such as marijuana. In Georgia it is illegal for minors 17 years of age or younger to purchase or smoke cigarettes, but enforcement of this law is practically non-existent. Therefore, cigarettes were not included in questions involving intoxicating effects of use or availability. A copy of the PRIDE Questionnaire is contained in Appendix A.

Students reported the age of first use of cigarettes as occurring across the entire age span sampled (from "Under 10" years to "Over 20" years). The most common ages of first use of cigarettes by senior high students were reported in the range of 12 to 15 years with 23.0 percent of these students reporting using cigarettes during this period. For junior high students, 16.6 percent reported first use of cigarettes at or below age 11. The differences between male and female students were small, with some tendency noted for males to report a lower age of first use than

females, particularly under the age of 10. Table II.A.1. contains percentage of first use of cigarettes for junior and senior high school students.

II.A.1.b First Use of Alcohol

Students in grades 6 through 12 were asked to respond to the questions "When did you first drink beer?", "drink wine coolers?", and "drink liquor?" Tables II.A.2. and II.A.3. contain summary responses to these questions by junior high and senior high students, respectively. There were different patterns of responses to these questions. And, there were different patterns of responses for the three types of alcoholic beverages. Early use of beer, 11 years or younger, was reported by 16.5 percent of the senior high students and 20.8 percent of the junior high students, suggesting that early alcohol use in the form of beer is not only common among Georgia students, but begin at an earlier age.

A greater percentage of junior high students reported early use of wine coolers than did senior high students. From Tables II.A.1. and II.A.2. it can be seen that 14.9 percent of the younger students (grades 6, 7 and 8) reported drinking wine coolers at 11 years or younger, while only 6.8 percent of the older students (grades 9 through 12) reported drinking at this early age. This pattern may be partially explained by availability of the beverage. Wine coolers, a relatively new addition to the alcoholic beverage industry, has been widely advertised and available only in the past four to five years. The older upper classmen appeared to have been less affected by the advertising and/or availability of wine

coolers as junior high students than the current students in junior high school. The pattern of reported first use across grades is also different for males and females, with females starting at slightly younger ages than males.

Less than 7 percent of senior high students reported using liquor at age 11 or below. However, between the ages of 12 and 15 years, almost 30 percent of the senior high students reported drinking liquor. This was the age span where the largest percentage of students reported first use of beer and liquor. Patterns of early liquor use (ages 11 years and under) were similar for junior high and senior high students. Patterns of use above 12 and 13 years are not comparable given the age difference between junior and senior high students.

In general, a higher percentage of males reported earlier use of alcohol than females. This pattern was most prevalent for beer use and least pronounced for wine cooler use.

II.A.1.c. First Use of Marijuana

Age of first use of marijuana was measured along a continuum ranging from "Under 10" to "Over 20", with two year intervals used as response categories. Although the percentage of junior high students reporting using marijuana was much less than for senior high students, junior high student use of marijuana was primarily at the age of 12-13 years (1.9%). Male junior high students reported earlier use than females. At age 13 or younger, 4.4 percent of the junior high males had smoked marijuana as compared to 2.7 precent of the junior high females.

Very early use (11 years and below) of marijuana by senior high students was slightly greater than reported by junior high students. Unlike alcohol, this very early use of marijuana has not appeared to have increased at the junior high level. For the senior high students, wide-spread marijuana use seems to begin at age 12-13 and continues through age 17. Approximately 16 percent of the students in grades 9 through 12 reported first using marijuana between the ages of 12 to 17, with the age category 14-15 years containing the highest percentage (8.0%). While percentages for first use of marijuana were consistently higher for male students, the differentials were small, usually one percent or less. Table II.A.4. contains the percentage data for age of first use of marijuana for junior and senior high school students.

II.A.2. Frequency of Gateway Drug Use

Students were asked to respond to how often they used gateway drugs within the past year using an eight category response set ranging from "No Use" to "Daily Use" (see Appendix A). Volume II: The Tabular Report, contains percentage data for the various frequency of use categories. In this narrative report, categories were collapsed into three use categories as follows:

Infrequent	=	One to Six Times a Year
Frequent	=	One or Two Times a Month
Very Frequent	=	One to Three Times a Month or Daily.

Tables containing frequency of gateway drug use appear at the end of this sub-section. The reader is encouraged to study the complete percentage tables in Volume II for more detailed results.

II.A.2.a. Frequency of Cigarette Use

In general, the frequency of cigarette use increased with age of the students. By the time students were seniors in high school, 29.5 percent reported smoking cigarettes compared to 19.4 percent of the junior high school students (see Table II.A.5.). Overall, a higher percentage of males reported smoking cigarettes than females, although by senior high, the use patterns were similar, with only a 2.6 percent differential (30.9% male vs. 28.3% female).

II.A.2.b. Frequency of Alcohol Use

Use of alcohol by underage students is an illegal and dangerous practice and must be considered an abuse of this otherwise legal drug. An important index of alcohol use is the frequency and extent that junior and senior high school students are involved with alcohol. It is important to examine the total number of students who reported using alcohol and the frequency that use in order to better plan and implement strategies to reduce alcohol abuse.

Tables II.A.6 and II.A.7 contain the percentage data for student reported use of beer, wine coolers, and liquor. Not surprisingly, when junior high students' use of alcohol was compared with senior high students, the total use by the older senior high students was greater. Figures II.A.1 through II.A.3. graphically demonstrates the relationship between alcohol use and grade level. It is also important to note that when the categories of use were compared, the senior high students reported using alcohol more frequently. For example, of the junior high

students who reported beer use, 18.3 responded to "Very Frequent" use. This "Very Frequent" use percentage for senior high beer drinkers increased to 27.7 percent.

Junior high males reported a slightly higher usage rate for all of the alcoholic beverage categories than did their female counterparts. Senior high males reported higher usage rates for beer and liquor than females; females reported a higher usage rate of wine coolers than males. Males also tended to respond more in the "Very Frequent" category than did females, suggesting a more frequent pattern of alcohol use by male students.

Implications of these findings are significant. Beer has been by far the most used form of alcohol by adolescents. Wine coolers have now equaled and even surpassed beer in popularity, even though this type of alcoholic beverage has been on the market only a short time. Findings also suggest that use of alcohol by Georgia youth frequently constitutes more than casual use as demonstrated by the majority of students reporting "Frequent" or "Very Frequent" use of beer and liquor. Alcohol use should be cause for concern by parents, educators, and others in communities throughout the state.

II.A.2.c. Frequency of Marijuana Use

The relationship between grade level and marijuana use was more pronounced than for alcohol use. Table II.A.8. contains percentages that show more than 14 percent (14.3%) of the senior high school students reported at least annual marijuana use as compared to only 3.9% of the junior high school students. To get a more detailed picture of prevalence of marijuana use; Figure

II.A.4. was constructed to view percentage of reported use at each grade level. The relationship of marijuana use and grade level becomes evident -- more students use marijuana as they get older and move into upper grades. By the 12th grade, almost one in five (18.2%) students reported using marijuana within the past year.

Males were more likely to use marijuana than females, and these differences are consistent across grade levels. Table II.A.8. provides comparison percentages of males and females regarding reported marijuana use. Frequency patterns of marijuana use (i.e., "Infrequent", "Frequent", and "Very Frequent" use) were different for males and females, suggesting that not only a higher percentage of males use marijuana, but they also use more often than their female classmates.

II.A.3. Intoxicating Effects of Gateway Drug Use

While this survey has provided evidence of widespread illegal use of gateway drugs, a second question of effects of their use needs to be addressed. Specifically, what levels of intoxication do adolescents attain when they drink alcoholic beverages or smoke marijuana? Do junior and senior high students report more "casual" or non-intoxicating use when they use gateway drugs, or do they report reaching high levels of intoxication?

II.A.3.a. Intoxicating Effects of Alcohol Use

Percentages of junior and senior high students who reported getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned" were computed for those students who reported drinking alcoholic beverages. As can be seen

from Table II.A.9., males tended to become more intoxicated when drinking alcohol than did females. Senior high students were about twice as likely to get highly intoxicated when they drank as were junior high students. For example, 20.5 percent of the senior high students reported getting highly intoxicated when they drank beer as compared to 10.5 percent of the junior high students. A greater percentage of students at both levels and both sexes reported getting highly intoxicated on liquor than for beer or wine coolers.

II.A.3.b. Intoxicating Effects of Marijuana Use

As discussed earlier, marijuana use is not as prevalent among junior and senior high school students as alcohol use. About 4 percent of the junior high and 14 percent of the senior high students reported smoking marijuana. However, for those students who did use, over 60 percent reported they generally reached high levels of intoxication (See Table II.A.10.)

These data suggest that alcohol and marijuana use among Georgia adolescents is not "casual", and that large numbers of students who report using these gateway drugs do so to the extreme. Use of alcohol by immature adolescents can lead to early dependency as demonstrated by the reported high rate of intoxication among Georgia's junior and senior high students. Those students reporting use of marijuana had an intoxication rate of over 60 percent, even higher than the intoxicating rate of liquor, suggesting that marijuana is not to be taken lightly.

Table II.A.1.
First Use of Cigarettes by Junior and Senior High Students

Junior High	Under 10	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	Over 20
Male	9.6	9.0	7.7	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.2
Female	6.4	8.1	7.0	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.1
Total	8.0	8.6	7.5	1.3	0.1	0.0	0.2
Senior High							
Male	9.2	8.2	13.1	9.1	3.7	0.4	0.2
Female	5.9	7.3	13.6	10.4	3.2	0.2	0.1
Total	7.5	7.7	13.3	9.7	3.5	0.3	0.1

Table II.A.2.
First Use of Alcohol by Junior High School Students

Drug	Under 10	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	Over 20
Beer							
Male	14.7	9.4	9.6	2.9	0.2	0.1	0.3
Female	10.3	7.2	8.1	1.6	0.1	0.0	0.1
Total	12.5	8.3	8.9	2.4	0.1	0.1	0.2
Wine Coolers							
Male	6.0	10.0	12.0	3.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
Female	4.3	9.6	13.3	2.6	0.1	0.0	0.1
Total	5.2	9.7	12.8	3.1	0.2	0.0	0.2
Liquor							
Male	4.4	4.6	6.4	2.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
Female	2.3	3.3	5.8	1.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Total	3.3	4.0	6.2	1.6	0.1	0.0	0.2

Table II.A.3.
First Use of Alcohol by Senior High Students

Drug	Under 10	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	Over 20
Beer							
Male	12.1	7.6	16.2	19.0	8.1	0.8	0.3
Female	8.3	5.2	14.2	19.1	7.0	0.4	0.1
Total	10.1	6.4	15.1	19.1	7.7	0.6	0.2
Wine Coolers							
Male	3.6	4.7	16.2	22.7	9.7	0.8	0.2
Female	1.8	3.6	16.6	27.2	12.3	0.8	0.1
Total	2.7	4.1	16.2	25.0	11.3	0.8	0.1
Liquor							
Male	4.3	4.0	12.7	18.1	7.8	0.6	0.2
Female	2.1	2.5	10.6	17.9	7.0	0.3	0.1
Total	3.1	3.2	11.5	18.0	7.5	0.5	0.1

Table II.A.4.
First Use of Marijuana by Junior and Senior High School Students

	Under 10	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	Over 20
Junior High							
Male	1.1	1.1	2.2	1.1	0.1	0.0	0.2
Female	0.4	0.7	1.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total	0.8	0.9	1.9	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.1
Senior High							
Male	1.9	1.7	5.2	8.8	4.2	0.3	0.2
Female	0.6	0.8	3.3	7.2	3.4	0.1	0.0
Total	1.3	1.3	4.3	8.0	3.8	0.3	0.1

Table II.A.5.
Frequency of Cigarette Use by Junior and Senior High Students.

Junior High	Infrequent	Frequent	Very Frequent	Total Use
Male	10.8	2.8	8.0	21.7
Female	8.3	2.3	6.0	16.7
Total	9.6	2.6	7.2	19.4
Senior High				
Male	10.8	3.9	16.2	30.9
Female	10.8	3.8	13.7	28.3
Total	10.8	3.9	14.9	29.5

Table II.A.6.
Frequency of Alcohol Use by Junior High School Students

Drug	Infrequent	Frequent	Very Frequent	Total Use
Beer				
Male	18.5	5.6	5.6	29.7
Female	13.4	4.1	3.5	21.0
Total	16.0	4.9	4.7	25.6
Wine Coolers				
Male	17.3	5.3	4.5	27.1
Female	16.7	5.0	3.6	25.3
Total	17.1	5.2	4.1	26.4
Liquor				
Male	9.0	3.1	2.9	15.0
Female	6.6	2.4	1.7	10.6
Total	7.9	2.8	2.3	13.0

Table II.A.7.
Frequency of Alcohol Use by Senior High School Students

Drug	Infrequent	Frequent	Very Frequent	Total Use
Beer				
Male	21.8	14.1	18.1	54.0
Female	22.2	12.2	8.9	43.3
Total	22.1	13.1	13.5	48.7
Wine Coolers				
Male	24.1	13.1	9.8	47.1
Female	30.3	15.0	8.0	53.2
Total	27.3	14.2	9.0	50.4
Liquor				
Male	17.9	11.7	10.4	40.0
Female	17.9	10.0	5.6	33.5
Total	17.8	10.8	8.0	36.6

Table II.A.8.
Frequency of Marijuana Use by Jr. and Sr. High School Students

Junior High	Infrequent	Frequent	Very Frequent	Total Use
Male	2.1	1.0	1.6	4.7
Female	1.3	0.6	0.9	2.8
Total	1.7	0.8	1.3	3.9
Senior High				
Male	6.7	3.7	6.5	16.9
Female	5.8	2.9	3.0	11.7
Total	6.2	3.3	4.8	14.3

Table II.A.9.
Percent of Georgia Students Reporting High Intoxication Levels When Drinking Beer, Wine Coolers and Liquor*

Drug	Junior High	Senior High
Beer		
Males	11.1	23.7
Females	8.7	16.8
Total	10.5	20.5
Wine Coolers		
Males	5.2	8.8
Females	4.0	8.0
Total	4.6	8.3
Liquor		
Males	34.3	54.3
Females	33.7	48.3
Total	33.3	51.5

* Percentages computed from students who reported drinking the alcoholic beverage and getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned"

Table II.A.10.
Percent of Georgia Students Reporting High Intoxication Levels When Smoking Marijuana*

	Junior High	Senior High
Males	65.0	68.8
Females	65.7	65.7
Total	63.3	66.9

* Percentages computed from students who reported smoking marijuana and getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned"

FIG.II.A.1: Beer Use By Grade

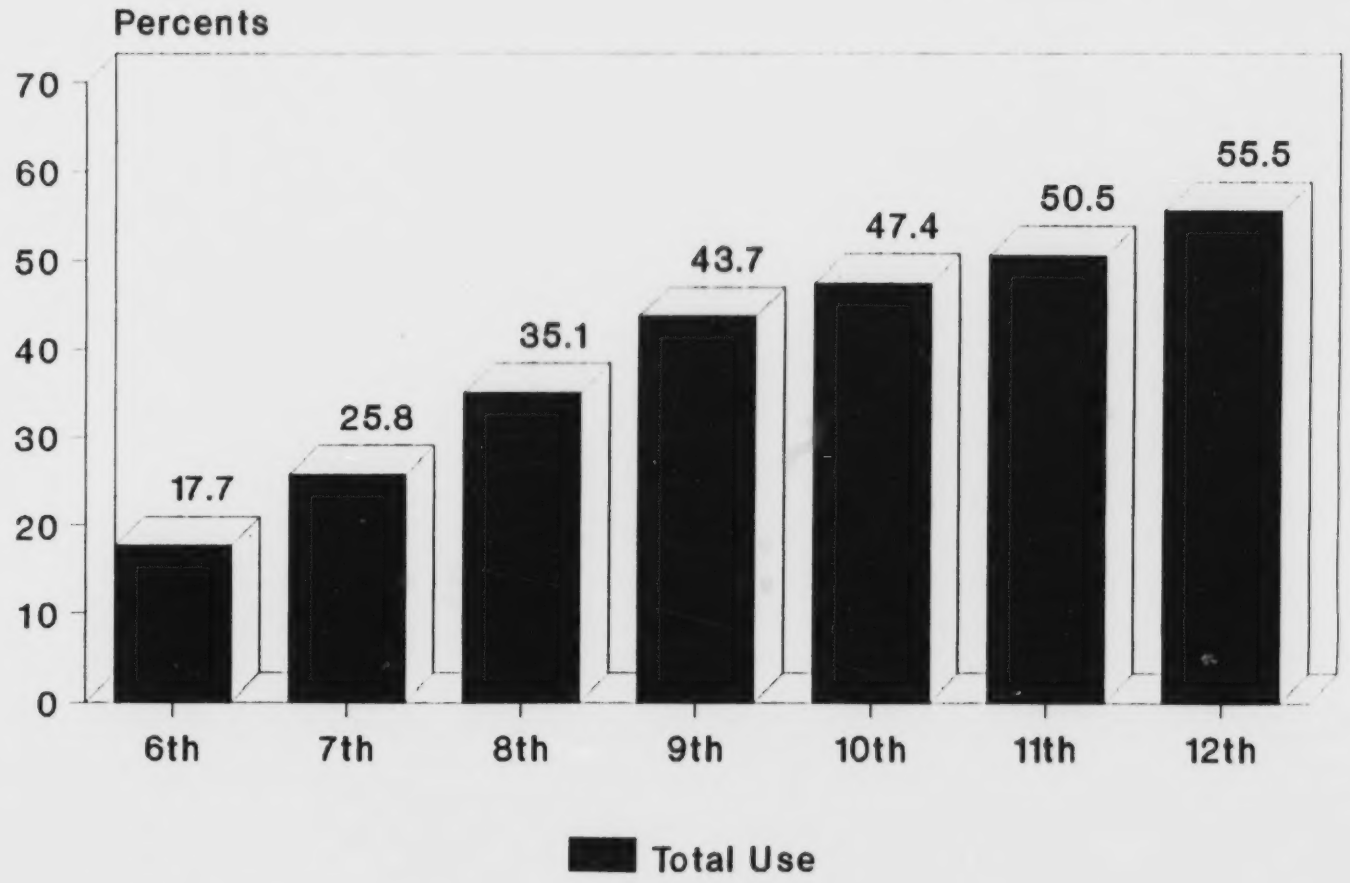

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FIG.II.A.2: Wine Cooler Use By Grade

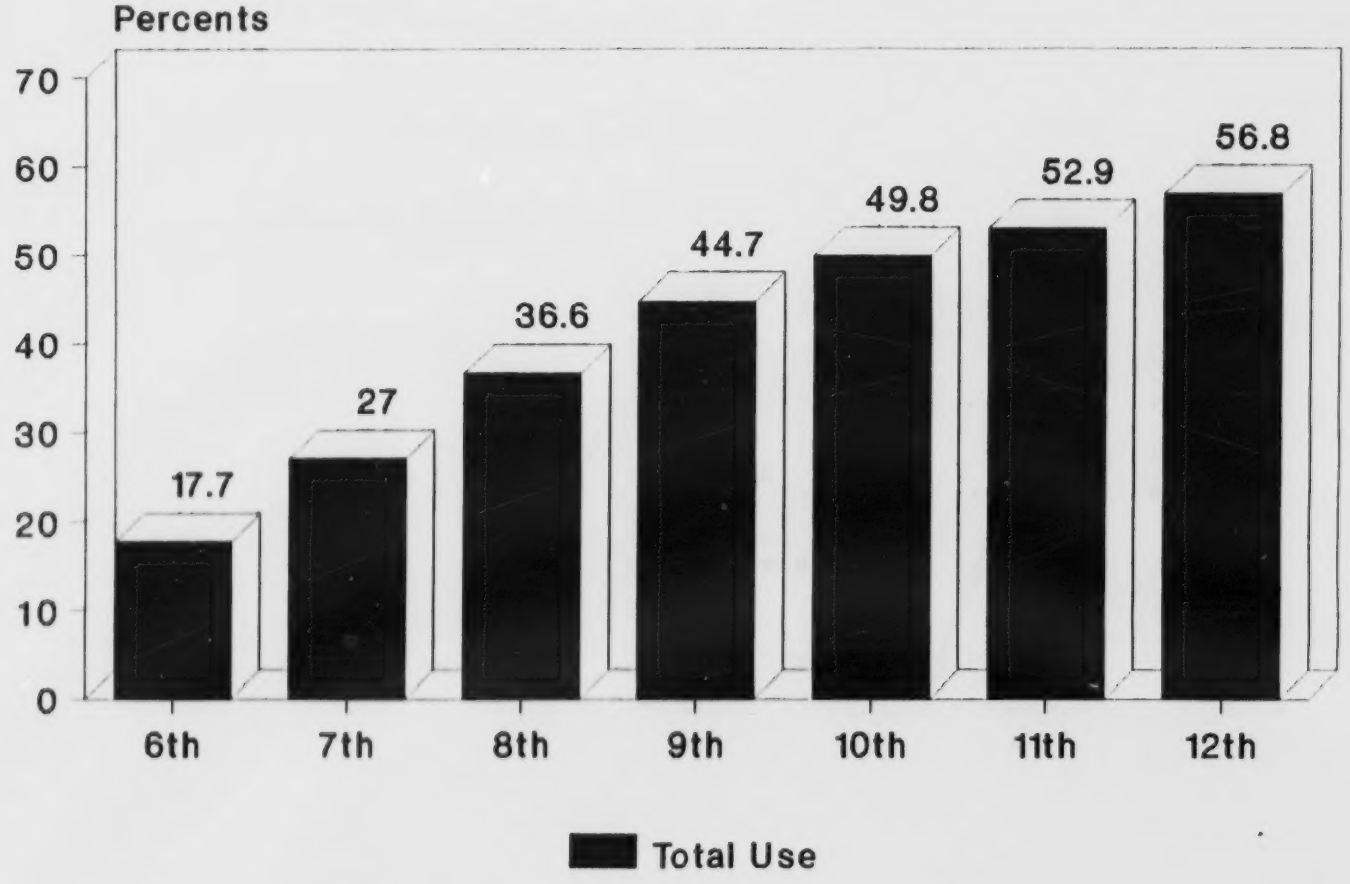

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FIG.II.A.3: Liquor Use By Grade

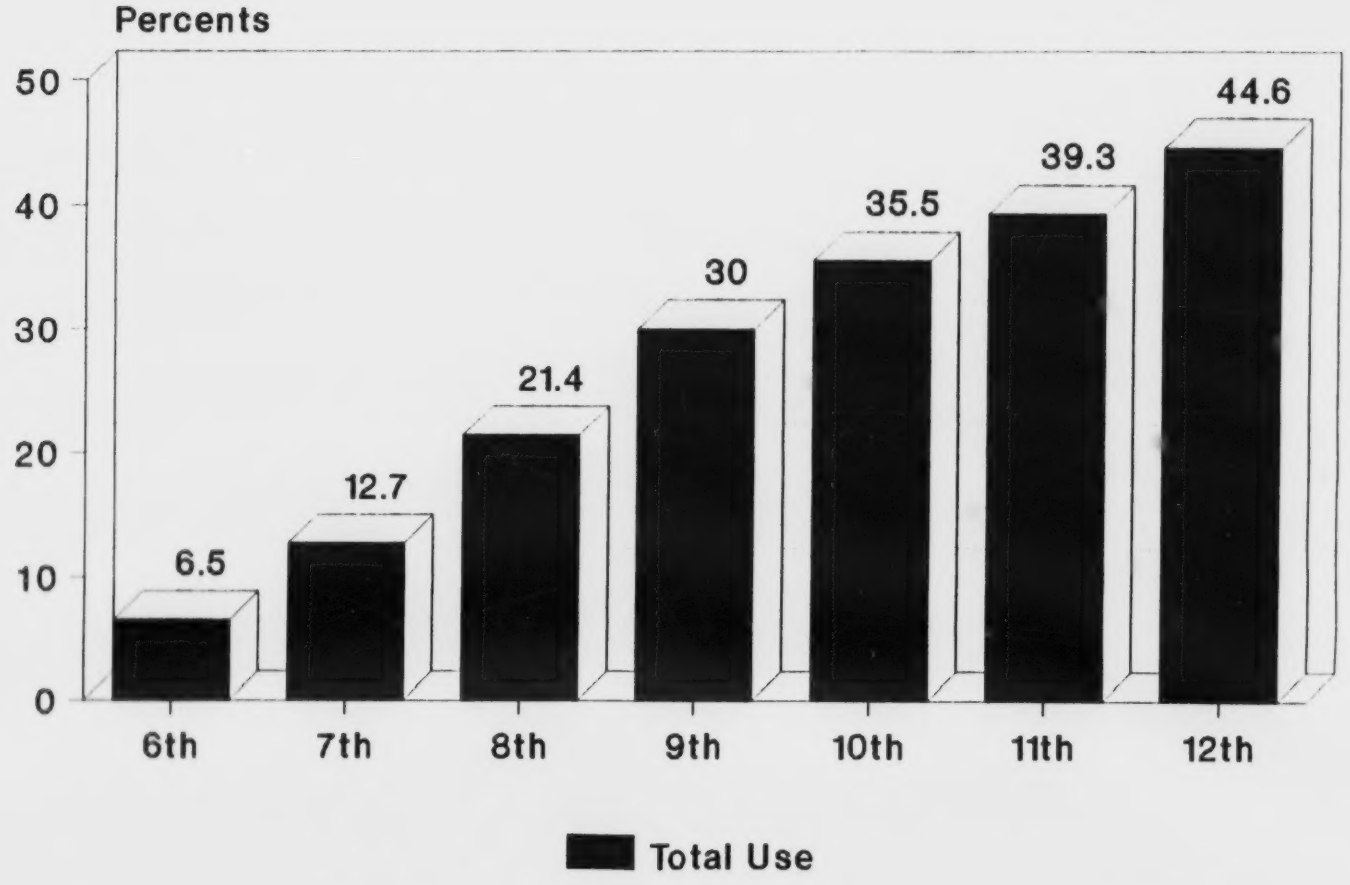

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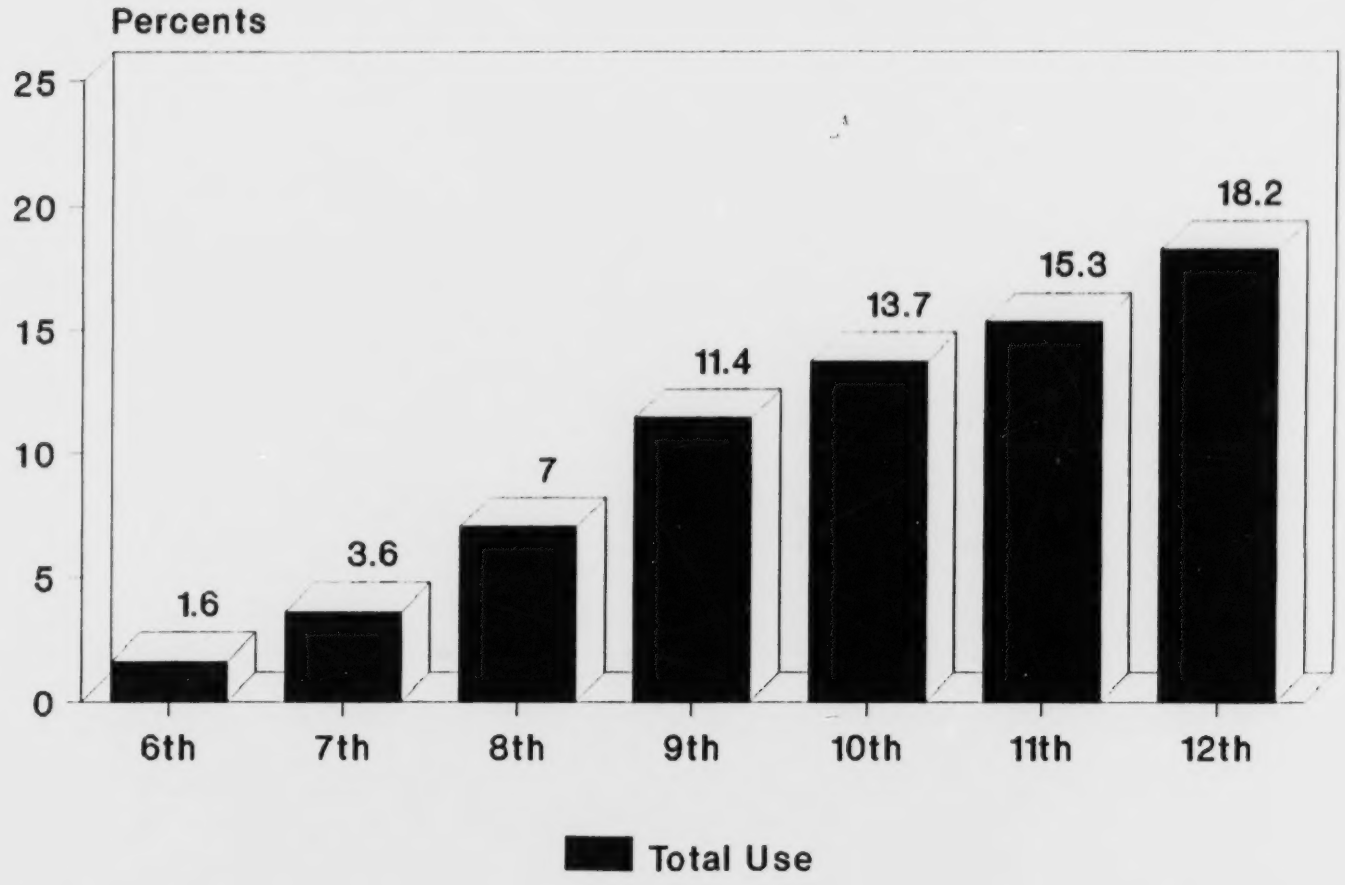
FIG.II.A.4: Marijuana Use By Grade



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II.B. Location and Time of Gateway Drug Use

A knowledge of the patterns of adolescent drug use is important when planning and implementing prevention programs. Two of the most important questions that were asked on the PRIDE Questionnaire were location and time of gateway drug use. Students were asked to respond to "where" they used gateway drugs: "At Home", "At School", "In a Car", at a "Friend's Home", and/or at "Other" places in the community. Times of use responses consisted of "Before School", "During School", "After School", "Week Nights" and "Weekends." Students were allowed to respond to all categories of "where" and "when" drugs were used that applied to themselves. This information provides insight into the drug and alcohol use patterns of junior and senior high students in Georgia.

II. B.1. Locations and Times of Cigarette Use

As can be seen from Table II.B.1. few students reported use of cigarettes "At School" (2.4% for junior high and 6.5% for senior high school students). Rather, the primary use of cigarettes occurs at places other than school. Junior high and senior high students reported using cigarettes "At Home" (10.8% and 15.1%), "In A Car" (5.0% and 15.6%); at a "Friend's Home" (10.2% and 15.3%); or at "Other" places (10.6% and 15.1%). Both males and females reported similar locations for cigarette use.

In general, students indicated that cigarettes were used primarily "After School" and on "Weekends" (see Table II.B.2).

Only 2.0 percent of the junior high students and 5.5% of the senior high students reported "During School" use of cigarettes, a finding consistent with the data regarding location of cigarette use cited above.

II. B.2. Locations and Times of Alcohol Use

Students were asked to respond to the questions of where and when they drank alcoholic beverages. For junior high students, "At Home" was most often given as a place of alcohol use, followed by "Friend's Home" and "Other" (see Table II.B.3). Little use of alcohol (less than 5%) was reported "In A Car" for this age group, and almost no use (less than 1.6%) was reported "At School." These data clearly focus the use of alcohol in the home and in the community, not at school.

Senior high school student responses revealed somewhat different patterns of alcohol use than those from junior high school students. Table II.B.4. contains percentage data regarding where senior high school students use alcohol. While home use of alcohol remained high (i.e. between 11.4% for liquor and 18.6% for wine coolers) use in other locations was reported as occurring more frequently. "Friend's Home" and "Other" places replaced the home as the most popular locations for alcohol use. Automobiles were also popular places for alcohol use by the older more mobile students. School remained the place of least use, with less than 2.9%, 2.7% and 2.5% reporting the use of beer, liquor, or wine coolers, respectively, "At School." Alcohol use occurred

predominately in the community and home, areas crucial to the adolescent drug abuse prevention effort. Figures II.B.1 through II.B.3 present a graphic representation of location of beer, wine cooler, and liquor use for senior high school students.

For the most part, patterns of beer and liquor use by male and female students were similar for beer and liquor, given that males reported more frequent use of these alcoholic beverages than females. Wine cooler use was generally reported more frequently by female students "At Home", "In a Car", at a "Freind's Home", and in "Other" places. Again, these findings reflect the higher use rate of wine coolers by females.

Figure II.B.4. presents percentage data of senior high students who reported using alcohol "In a Car." This graph illustrates the obviously hazardous conditions which exist when these students drive while drinking alcoholic beverages, thus presenting immediate danger to themselves and others. One in eight senior high school students (14.2%) reported use of beer in a car. One in 10 reported drinking liquor in a car. This latter statistic is particularly disturbing when over half of these students report getting highly intoxicated when they drink liquor.

In addition to location of use, students were asked to indicate time of use to further establish alcohol use patterns for students in grades 6 through 12. They were asked to respond to five categories of when they use beer, wine coolers, and liquor, or they could respond to the "Do Not Use" category. More than one time period could be marked. As with cigarette use, time

categories for alcohol use were "Before School", "During School", "After School", "Week Nights", and "Weekends."

Tables II.B.5 and II.B.6 contain responses to these questions for junior and senior high school students, respectively. Overall, 3 percent or less of all student groups reported using alcohol "Before School" and 2 percent or less reported using alcohol "During School" hours. Somewhat more usage was reported "After School" and on "Week Nights" (e.g. under 6% of the junior high school students and about 9% of the senior high school students reported using beer on week nights). "Weekends" were by far the favored time of alcohol use. Nearly one-fifth of the junior high and over 40 percent of the senior high students reported drinking beer and/or wine coolers on weekends. Liquor use on weekends was somewhat less; about 10 percent for junior high students and 30 percent for senior high students. Figures II.B.5. through II.B.7. contain a graphic representation of the time of use patterns for senior high school students. This finding is most important when organizing prevention strategies--parents and the community must be an integral part of the prevention process as most of the alcohol consumption occurs when parents are responsible for their children's behavior.

II.B.3. Location and Time of Marijuana Use

As for alcohol, students reported much less marijuana use "At School" than in other locations. Total use rates were reported at 1.3% for junior high students and 2.5% for high school students (refer to Table II.B.7.). The usage rate for marijuana by junior

high school students was small, less than 3% for all locations. For high school students the popular places to use marijuana were in "Other" places in the community (8.6%), at a "Friend's Home" (8.5%), or "In a Car" (6.7%). These patterns of use by location did not seem to be different for males or females other than the already established patterns of higher percentage of use by males. Figure II.B.8. contains the percentage data for senior high school students' reported location of marijuana use.

The least preferred time of use was "During School" hours (less than 2%). The most popular time of marijuana use was on "Weekends" with 12.5 percent of males and 9.5 percent of the females reporting smoking marijuana at that time. Figure II.B.9. contains percentage data for senior high school students. See Table II.B.8. for time of use data as reported by junior and senior high school students.

Again, the times of most reported use by high school seniors are times when parents or guardians have responsibility for student actions. These data strongly represent the need for parents to be involved in drug and alcohol prevention.

Table II.B.1.
Location of Cigarette Use by Junior and Senior High School Students

	At Home	At School	In a Car	Friend's House	Other
Junior High					
Male	11.2	2.6	4.9	9.9	11.8
Female	10.3	2.1	4.9	10.3	9.2
Total	10.8	2.4	5.0	10.2	10.6
Senior High					
Male	15.1	7.5	15.6	15.1	16.6
Female	15.3	5.5	15.8	15.9	13.9
Total	15.1	6.5	15.6	15.3	15.1

Table II.B.2.
Time of Cigarette Use by Junior and Senior High School Students

	Before School	During School	After School	Week Nights	Weekends
Junior High					
Male	4.9	2.1	8.8	6.9	14.8
Female	4.1	1.7	7.1	6.5	13.2
Total	4.6	2.0	8.0	6.8	14.1
Senior High					
Male	11.0	6.5	14.4	13.2	21.3
Female	10.0	4.5	13.6	12.3	21.6
Total	10.4	5.5	13.9	12.7	21.3

Table II.B.3.
Location of Alcohol Use by Junior High School Students

Drug	At Home	At School	In a Car	Friend's Home	Other
Beer					
Male	16.2	1.8	4.5	10.2	11.2
Female	13.3	1.4	3.8	9.6	8.3
Total	14.8	1.6	4.2	10.0	9.9
Wine Coolers					
Male	15.3	1.6	3.8	8.5	9.4
Female	16.0	1.3	3.8	10.4	9.0
Total	15.8	1.5	3.8	9.5	9.3
Liquor					
Male	7.4	1.6	2.7	6.4	6.6
Female	6.1	1.3	2.5	6.0	5.3
Total	6.8	1.4	2.7	6.3	6.0

Table II.B.4.
Location of Alcohol Use by Senior High School Students

Drug	At Home	At School	In a Car	Friend's Home	Other
Beer					
Male	18.0	3.8	16.0	27.2	27.0
Female	15.0	2.0	12.4	24.8	20.8
Total	16.4	2.9	14.2	25.9	23.8
Wine Coolers					
Male	16.7	3.1	12.1	21.5	21.4
Female	20.4	1.9	13.4	27.3	22.9
Total	18.6	2.5	12.8	24.4	22.3
Liquor					
Male	12.8	3.5	11.6	21.3	20.7
Female	10.4	1.9	9.3	19.8	16.9
Total	11.4	2.7	10.4	20.5	18.8

Table II.B.5
Time of Alcohol use by Junior High School Students

Drug	Before School	During School	After School	Week Nights	Weekends
Beer					
Male	2.2	1.4	4.8	6.5	20.6
Female	1.8	1.0	3.2	4.8	16.9
Total	2.0	1.2	4.0	5.7	18.9
Wine Coolers					
Male	1.9	1.1	4.2	5.6	18.8
Female	1.5	0.8	3.2	5.0	20.3
Total	1.8	1.0	3.7	5.4	18.7
Liquor					
Male	1.4	0.9	2.6	3.4	10.9
Female	1.1	0.6	1.7	2.4	8.6
Total	1.3	0.8	2.2	2.9	9.9

Table II.B.6.
Time of Alcohol Use by Senior High School Students

Drug	Before School	During School	After School	Week Nights	Weekends
Beer					
Male	4.0	2.6	7.9	11.6	43.1
Female	2.0	1.3	3.9	7.1	37.6
Total	3.0	2.0	5.8	9.3	40.2
Wine Coolers					
Male	2.9	2.0	5.8	9.0	37.1
Female	1.7	1.1	3.9	7.6	45.7
Total	2.3	1.6	4.9	8.3	41.5
Liquor					
Male	3.1	2.1	5.4	7.7	32.3
Female	1.6	1.0	2.6	4.6	29.0
Total	2.3	1.6	4.0	6.1	30.5

Table II.B.7.
Location of Marijuana Use by Jr. and Sr. High School Students

Drug	At Home	At School	In a Car	Friend's Home	Other
Junior High					
Male	2.5	1.4	2.0	3.1	3.1
Female	2.0	1.1	1.7	2.6	2.3
Total	2.3	1.3	1.9	2.8	2.7
Senior High					
Male	5.7	3.5	7.9	9.4	10.1
Female	3.5	1.5	5.6	7.7	7.0
Total	4.5	2.5	6.7	8.5	8.6

Table II.B.8.
Time of Marijuana Use by Jr. and Sr. High School Students

	Before School	During School	After School	Week Nights	Weekends
Junior High					
Male	1.1	0.7	1.3	1.6	3.5
Female	0.7	0.4	0.8	1.0	2.3
Total	0.9	0.6	1.1	1.3	3.0
Senior High					
Male	3.7	2.4	4.6	5.4	12.5
Female	1.8	0.8	2.2	3.2	9.5
Total	2.7	1.6	3.4	4.3	11.0

FIG.II.B.1: Location of Beer Use

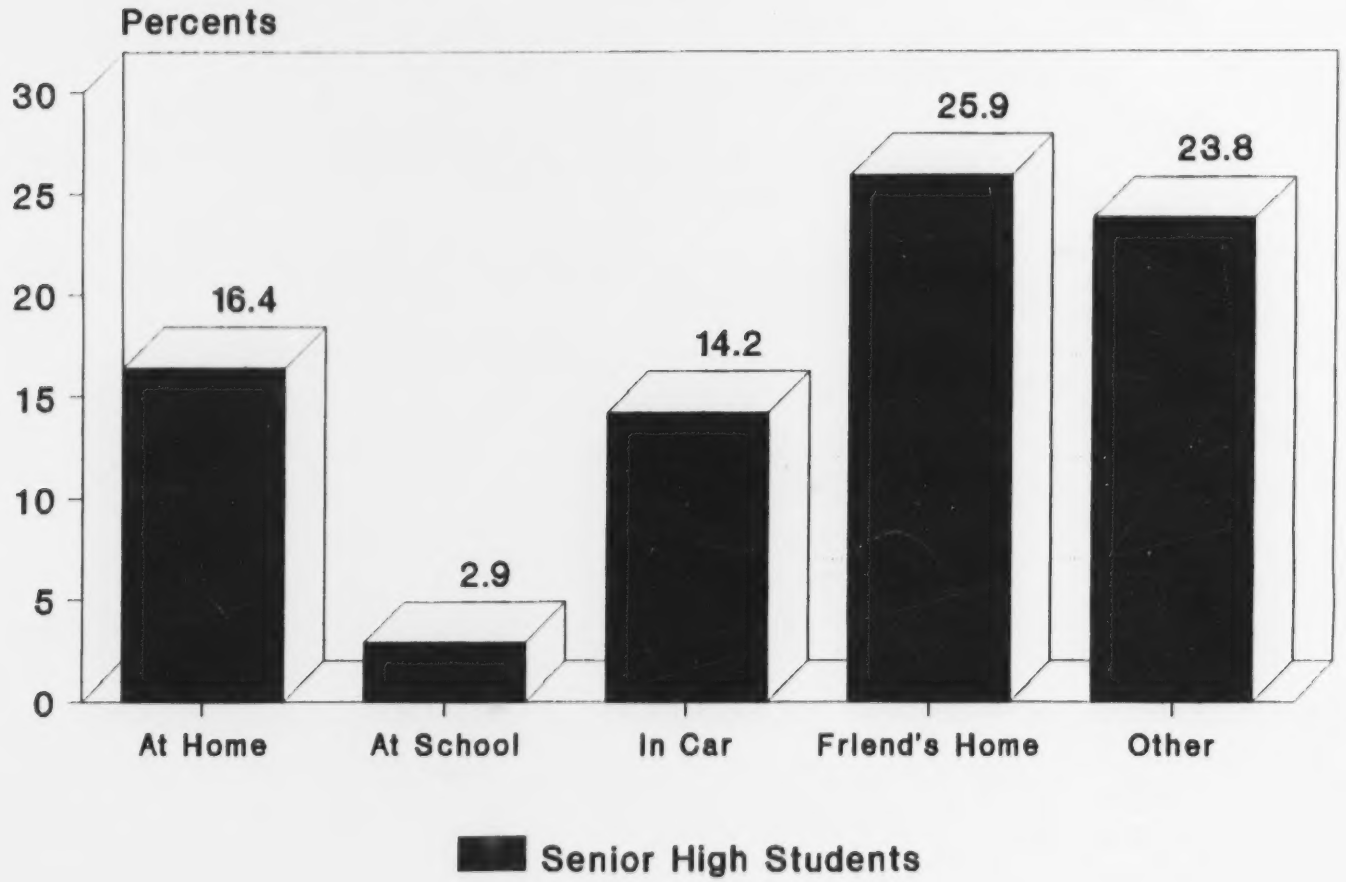

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FIG.II.B.2: Location of Wine Cooler Use

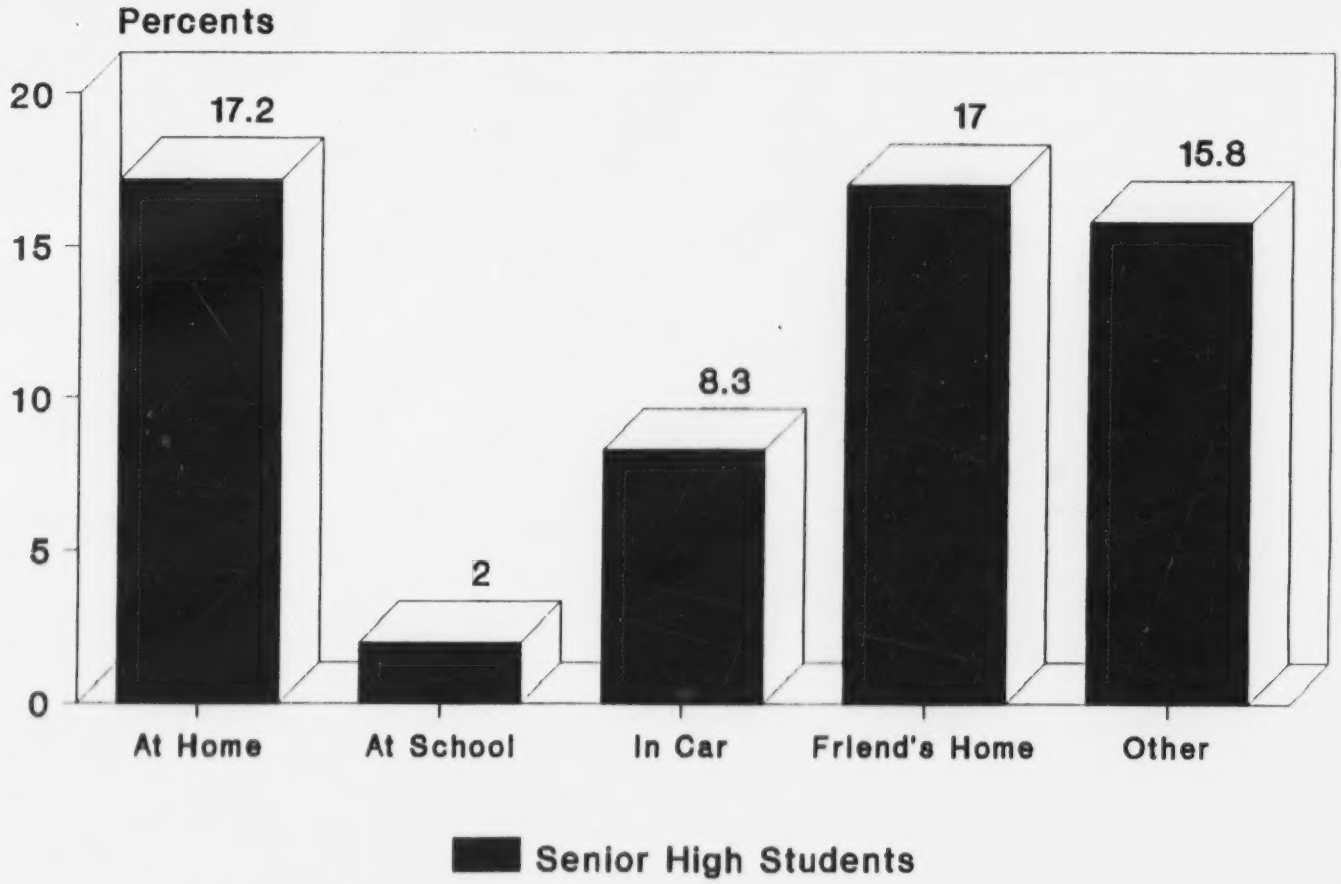

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FIG.II.B.3: Location of Liquor Use

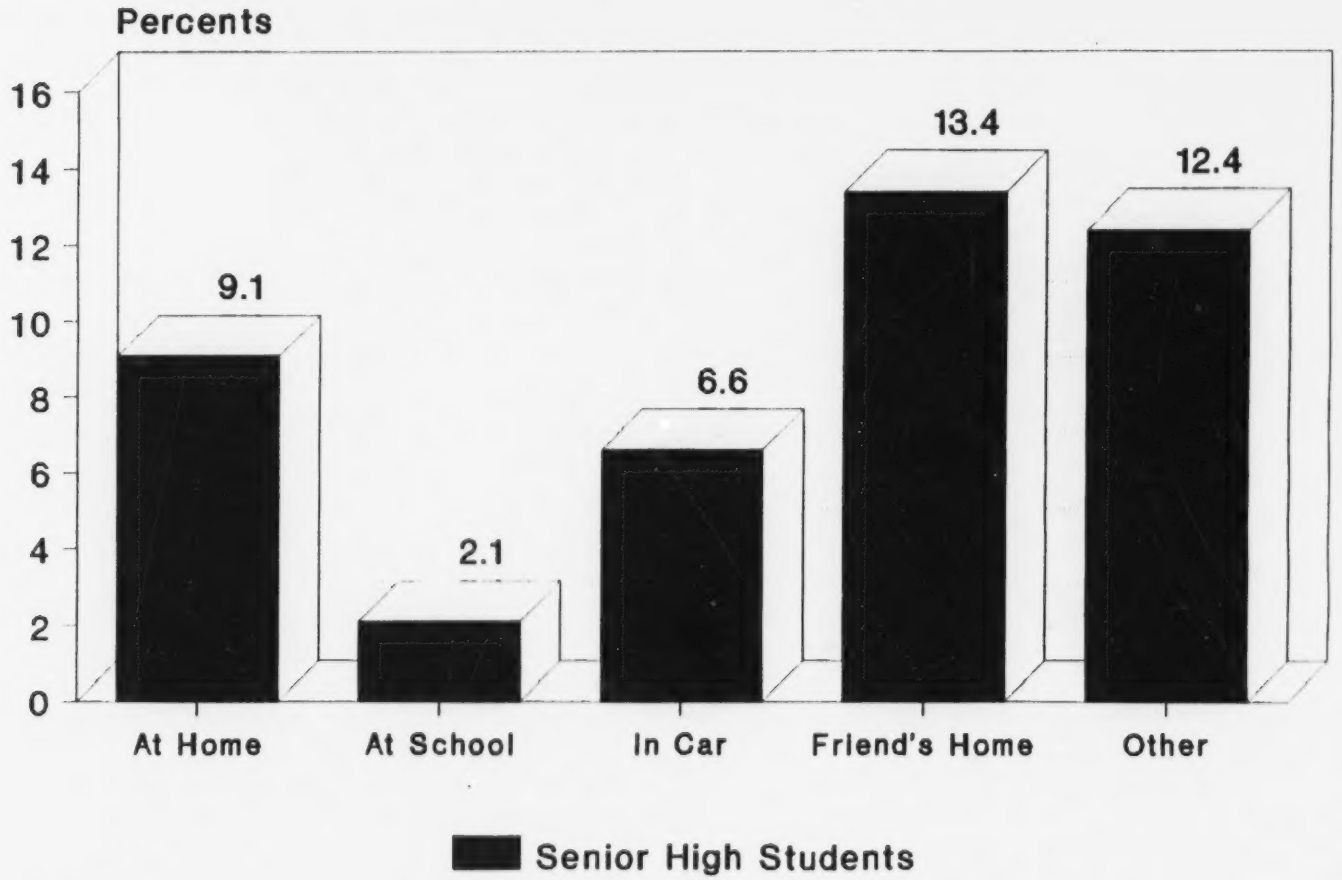

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FIG.II.B.4:
Use of Gateway Drugs in Cars

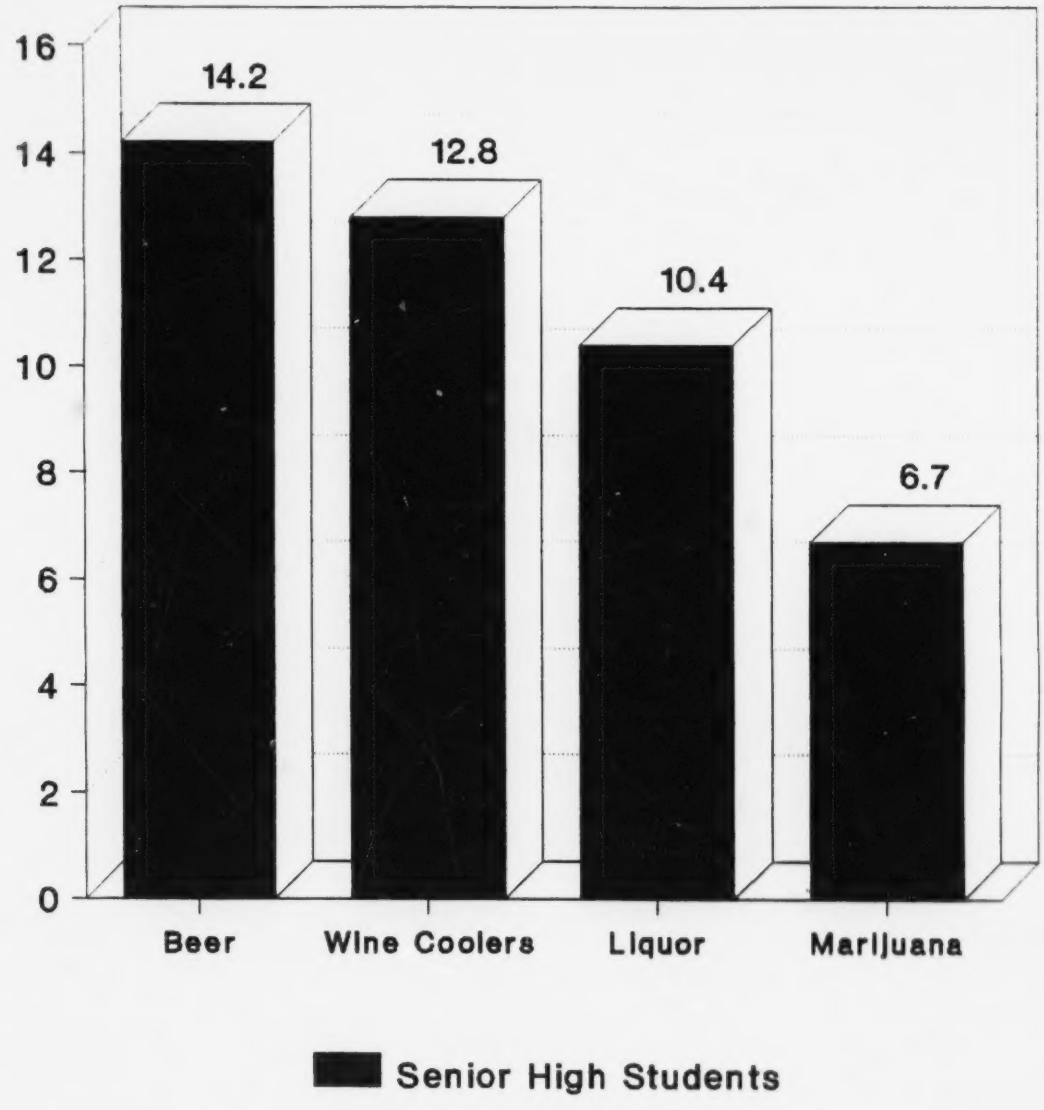

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FIG.II.B.5: Time of Use For Beer

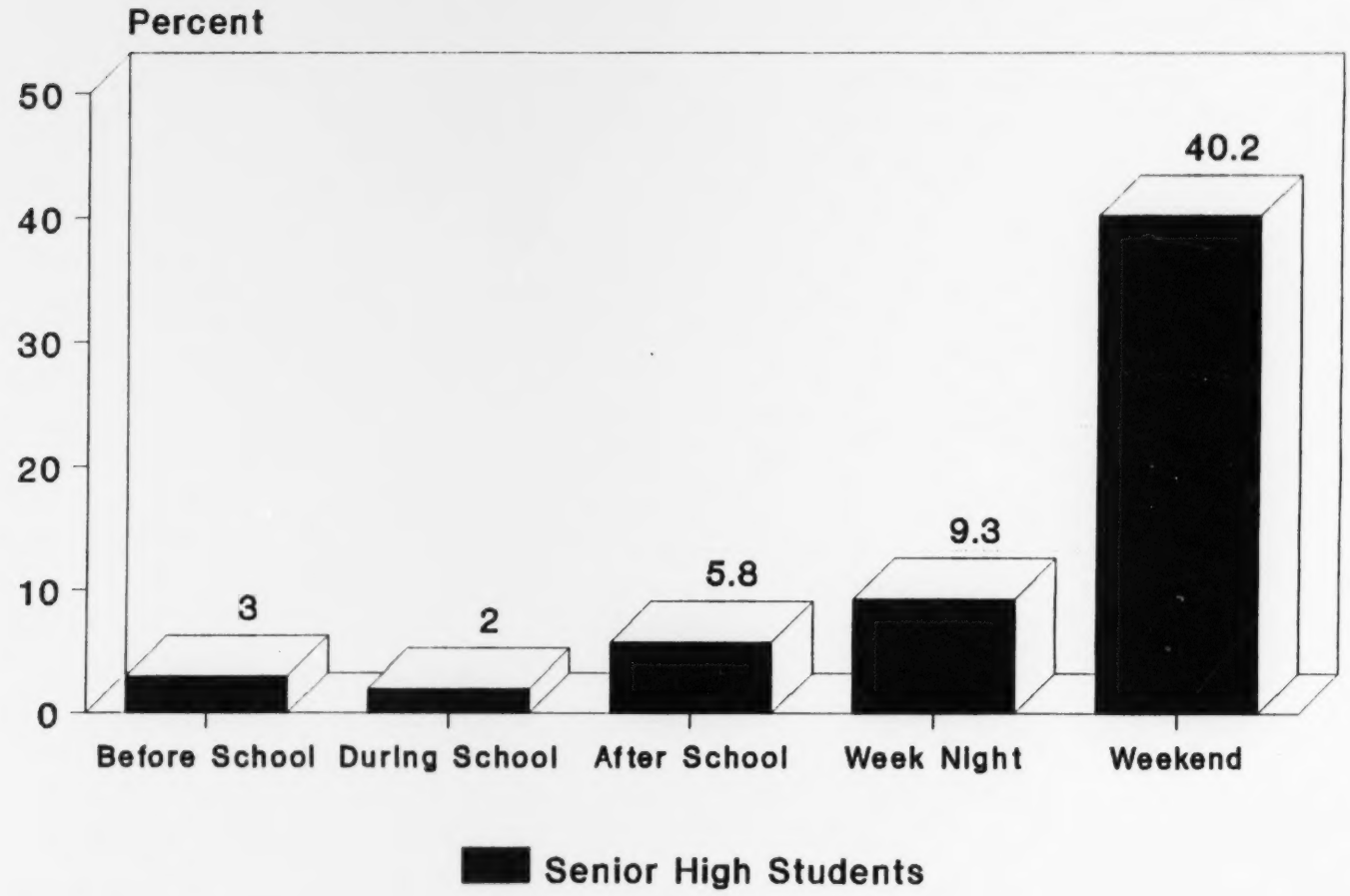

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FIG.II.B.6: Time of Use for Wine Coolers

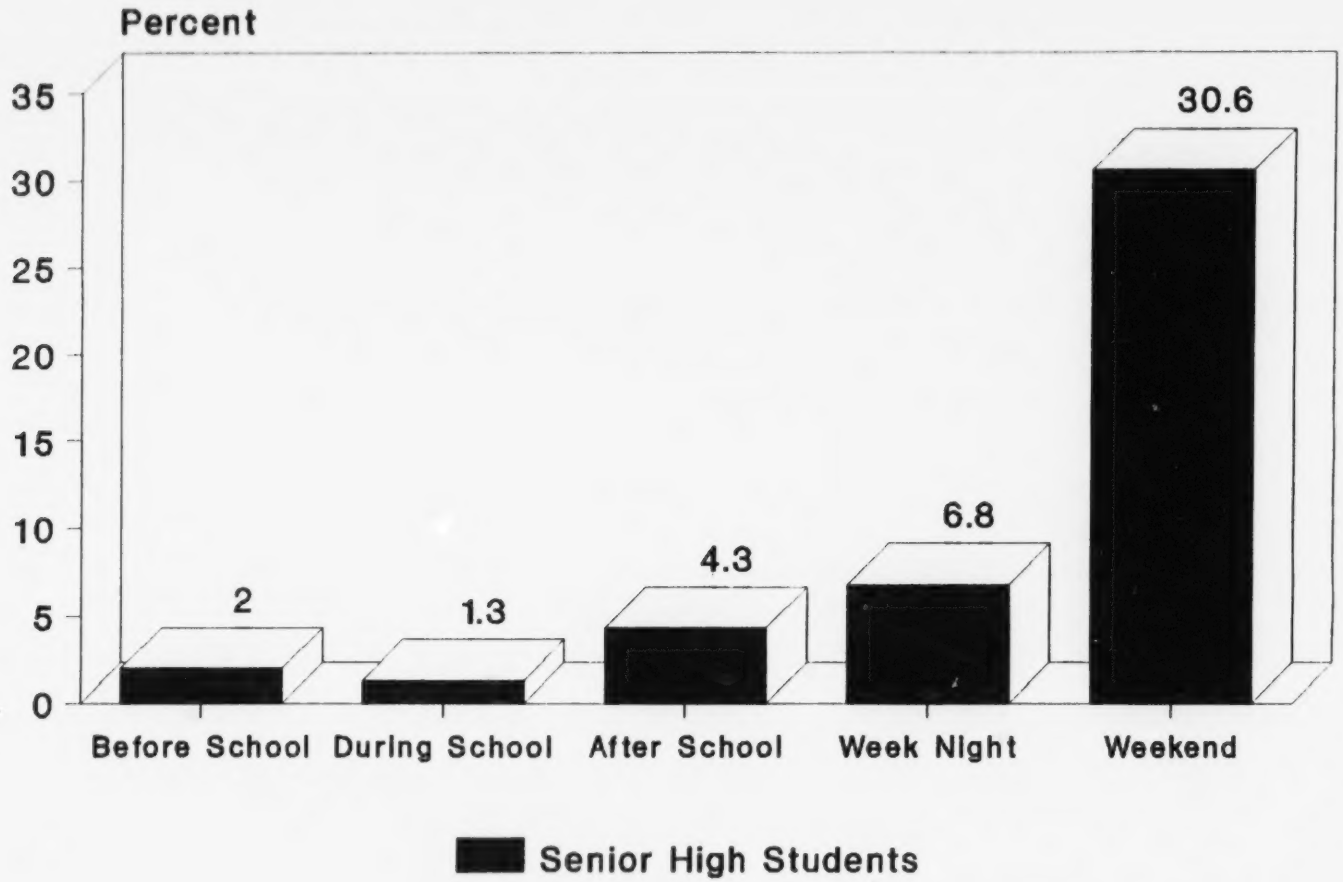

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FIG.II.B.7: Time of Use For Liquor

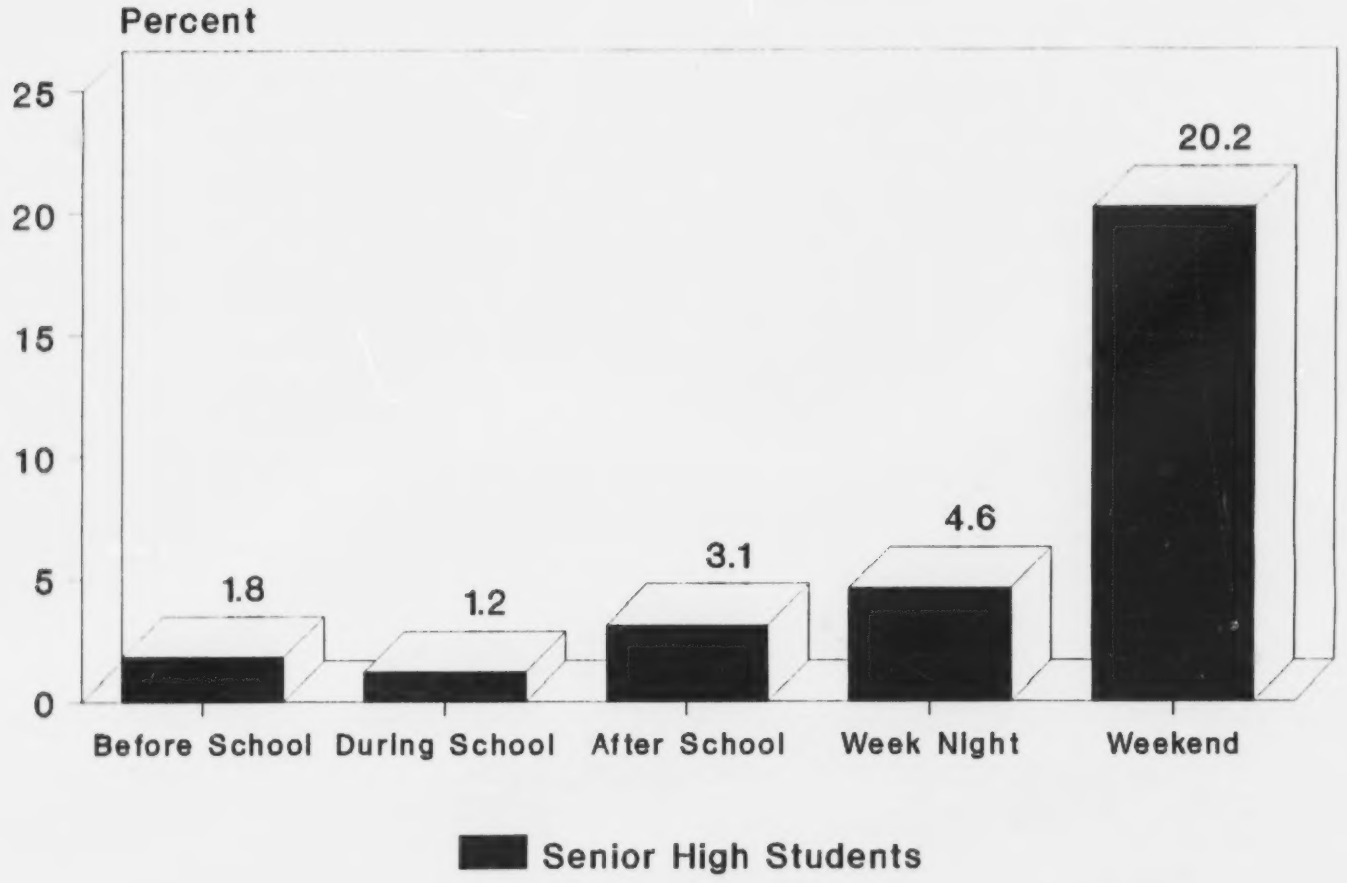

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FIG.II.B.8: Location of Marijuana Use

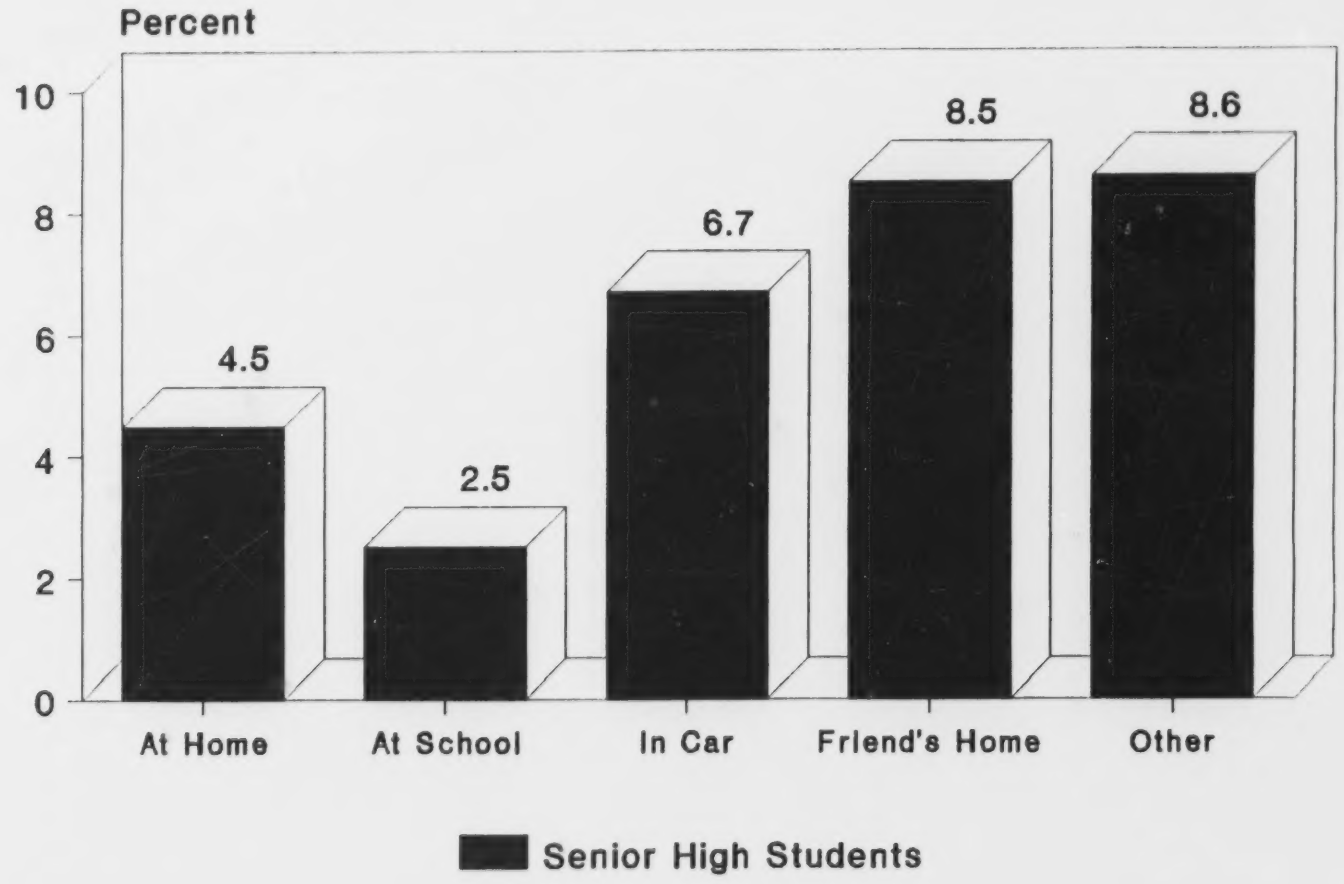

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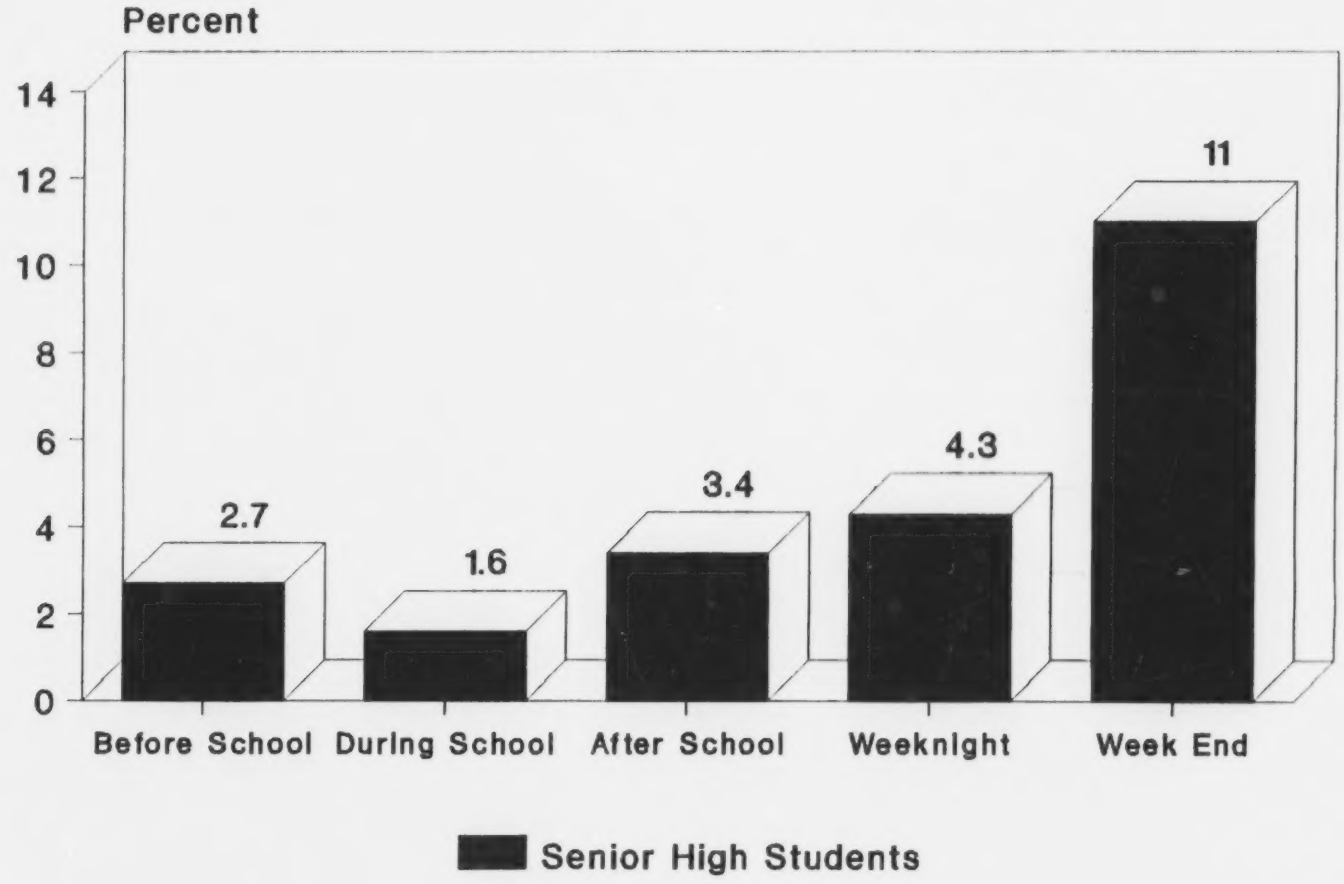
FIG.II.B.9: Time of Marijuana Use



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II.C. Friends' Use of Gateway Drugs

Students were asked to respond to their friends' use of gateway drugs. The categories were "None", "A Few", "Several", or "A Lot." Collection of these data provided a measure of peer pressure to use drugs, i.e., if students have friends who use gateway drugs, they most likely will have the opportunity to use and possibly feel pressure to use themselves. In addition, this measure gives another, less direct, measure of overall use among the adolescent population in Georgia.

II.C.1 Friends' Use of Cigarettes

Older students indicated having more friends who use cigarettes than did younger students (see Table II.C.1.), a finding consistent with the general tendency for more students to report use of gateway drugs as they get older. No meaningful differences were noted between male and female responses to friends' use of cigarettes.

II.C.2. Friends' Use of Alcohol

Peer pressure is a powerful force in the adolescent culture and has been identified as one factor contributing to students' beginning use of alcohol. Students who report having friends who drink are more likely to drink themselves, if not already doing so. They are at high risk of becoming adolescent drug and alcohol users. Junior and senior high school students were asked to indicate how many of their friends drink beer, wine coolers, and liquor. Tables II.C.2. and II.C.3. contain information regarding student responses to friends' use of alcohol.

As expected, the older senior high students reported more alcohol-using friends than junior high students. Almost 80 percent of the students in grades 9 through 12 indicated that they had at least "A Few" friends who use alcohol (beer). Nearly half of these students indicated that "Several" to "Most" of their friends used beer and/or wine coolers and more than a third (35.8%) reported that "Several" to "Most" of their friends used liquor. Even at the junior high level, over 40 percent responded that they had at least "A Few" friends who use beer and/or wine coolers. Given that peer pressure is such a powerful force during adolescence and has been shown to be a contributing factor to students' beginning use of alcohol, these data would indicate that a large percentage of Georgia students are under peer pressure to start or to continue to drink some form of alcohol.

As might be predicted, the male and female responses to friends' use of alcohol followed a similar pattern as frequency and effect of alcohol use. Male students at both junior and senior high school levels reported more friends who drink beer and liquor than did their female counterparts. However, reported use of wine coolers by friends for female students was slightly greater than that reported by male students.

II. C. 3. Friends' Use of Marijuana

A similar pattern of friends' marijuana use was found for alcohol consumption. In general, older students had more friends who use marijuana (38.4% for senior high students) than younger students (12.4% for junior high students). This finding is

consistent with the general tendency for more students to use marijuana as they progress through the grades. While males tended to have more friends who are users of marijuana than females, the differences were small (See Table II.C.4.). It is significant that nearly 40 percent (38.4%) of Georgia senior high school students reported that they have at least "A Few" friends who smoke marijuana, a dangerous and illicit drug. Thus, it would seem that marijuana continues to be problematic among the adolescent population in Georgia and increased prevention efforts to combat this drug is warranted.

Table II.C.1.
Friends' Use of Cigarettes by Jr. and Sr. High School Students

	None	A Few	Several	Most
Junior High				
Male	53.6	32.2	7.9	6.2
Female	57.1	29.1	8.0	5.8
Total	55.2	30.6	8.0	6.2
Senior High				
Male	30.7	39.3	17.2	12.7
Female	35.1	36.5	16.1	12.3
Total	33.1	37.8	16.6	12.5

Table II.C.2.
Friends' Use of Alcohol by Junior High School Students

Drug	None	A Few	Several	Most
Beer				
Male	54.4	29.8	9.2	6.6
Female	58.1	27.5	8.7	5.7
Total	56.0	28.7	9.1	6.3
Wine Coolers				
Male	58.8	26.5	8.4	6.3
Female	55.9	27.8	9.2	7.1
Total	57.1	27.2	8.9	6.8
Liquor				
Male	73.3	16.5	5.4	4.8
Female	75.9	15.1	4.9	4.1
Total	74.4	15.9	5.2	4.5

Table II.C.3.
Friends' Use of Alcohol by Senior High School Students

Drug	None	A Few	Several	Most
Beer				
Male	18.9	32.1	24.8	24.2
Female	21.8	33.7	24.5	20.0
Total	20.4	32.9	24.6	22.0
Wine Coolers				
Male	23.9	35.2	22.2	18.6
Female	18.8	34.2	25.4	21.6
Total	21.3	34.6	24.0	20.2
Liquor				
Male	34.0	28.4	29.4	28.2
Female	38.8	27.0	18.0	16.2
Total	36.6	27.7	18.6	17.2

Table II.C.4.
Friends' Use of Marijuana by Jr. and Sr. High School Students

	None	A Few	Several	Most
Junior High				
Male	87.2	8.4	2.1	2.2
Female	88.2	8.1	2.0	1.7
Total	87.5	8.3	2.1	2.0
Senior High				
Male	59.5	24.7	8.3	7.4
Female	63.7	22.8	8.0	5.5
Total	61.6	23.7	8.2	6.5

II.D. Perceived Harmful Effects of Gateway Drug Use

Students' beliefs about the harmful effects of gateway drugs are important predictors of their behavior. These data can also target areas where additional education efforts need targeting both by schools and by parents. Students were asked to respond to the degree that they felt that gateway drugs were harmful to their health. The response categories were "No", "Sometime", "Very Much", and "Don't Know." A "No" response indicated that the student had a positive perception toward the use of the drug, while a "Very Much" response indicated that the student perceived use to be a health hazard.

II.D.1. Perceived Harmful Effects of Cigarette Use

The perceived harmful effects of smoking cigarettes varied with frade. In general, senior high students responded more often than junior high students that cigarette smoking was "Very Much" harmful to their health. As can be observed from Table II.D.1, 11.8 percent of junior high students compared to 7.7 percent of the senior high students responded that cigarette use was not harmful. About 6 percent did not know if smoking cigarettes was harmful to their health. Females tended to report the use of cigarettes as being more harmful than did males. For example, at the junior high level, 71.6 percent of the female students responded smoking cigarettes was "Very Much" harmful as compared to 63.8 percent for males.

It appears that even though there has been extensive publicity about the harmful health effects of cigarette smoking, a large

percentage of students still did not strongly ("Very Much") respond to the harmfulness of this gateway drug. Almost one-third (32.4%) of the junior high and over one-fourth (26.4%) of the senior high students responded that cigarette smoking was not harmful,was sometimes harmful, or they did not know.

II.D.2. Perceived Harmful Effects of Alcohol Use

Students were also asked to give their opinions about the health hazards of drinking alcohol. Beer, wine coolers, and liquor were the forms of alcohol assessed. Tables II.D.2. and II.D.3. contain the percentage data for junior and senior high school students, respectively. Responses to the "No" category were similar for both groups. About 1 in 7 junior high students (14.3%) and 1 in 8 senior high students (12.8%) felt that beer use was not harmful to their health. More students perceived wine coolers to be less harmful than beer or liquor. More than 1 in 5 junior and senior high students felt drinking wine coolers posed no hazard to their health, and less than half these students thought wine coolers were "Very Harmful" to their health. Liquor use was perceived as more of a health hazard by both the younger and older students. Over two-thirds of the junior and senior high students responded "Very Much" harmful to liquor use. Females were slightly more likely to perceive beer and liquor as harmful than were males. And, a higher percentage of younger students responded to the "Don't Know" category. These data indicate that students at the junior and senior high levels need to be more educated regarding the harmful effects that alcohol can have on their health.

II D. 3. Perceived harmful Effects of Marijuana

Younger students responded more often than older students, that marijuana was not harmful or they did not know if it was harmful (see Table II.4.4.). Males were nearly twice as likely than females to respond that smoking marijuana would not be harmful to their health. It is encouraging to note that 78.8 percent of the junior high and 81.1 percent of the senior high students responded that marijuana was harmful to their health. However, those remaining students who did not respond as strongly provides evidence for the continued need for drug education and prevention activities targeted toward marijuana use.

Table II.D.1.
Perceived Harmful Effects of Cigarette Use
by Jr. and Sr. High Students

	No	Some Time	Very Much	Don't Know
Junior High				
Male	14.9	15.1	63.8	6.2
Female	8.4	13.9	71.6	6.0
Total	11.8	14.5	67.6	6.1
Senior High				
Male	9.8	15.1	71.3	3.8
Female	5.4	15.6	76.0	3.0
Total	7.7	15.3	73.6	3.4

Table II.D.2.
Perceived Harmful Effects of Alcohol Use by Junior High Students

Drug	No	Some-Time	Very Much	Don't Know
Beer				
Male	17.4	24.0	51.4	7.2
Female	11.0	24.3	56.7	8.0
Total	14.3	24.1	54.0	7.6
Wine Coolers				
Male	23.9	22.9	43.2	10.0
Female	19.2	25.1	44.2	11.5
Total	21.7	23.9	43.6	10.8
Liquor				
Male	15.9	12.1	65.0	7.0
Female	8.9	11.7	72.1	7.3
Total	12.5	11.9	68.4	7.2

Table II.D.3.
Perceived Harmful Effects of Alcohol Use by Senior High Students

Drug	No	Some-Time	Very Much	Don't Know
Beer				
Male	15.9	33.9	45.7	4.5
Female	9.6	34.4	51.9	4.0
Total	12.8	34.1	48.9	4.3
Wine Coolers				
Male	24.6	30.4	38.3	6.6
Female	20.7	34.6	38.3	6.4
Total	22.8	32.5	38.2	6.5
Liquor				
Male	11.8	22.1	61.7	4.3
Female	6.1	19.9	70.5	3.5
Total	9.0	20.7	66.3	3.9

Table II.D.4.
Perceived Harmful Effects of Marijuana Use by
Jr. and Sr. High Students

	No	Some-Time	Very Much	Don't Know
Junior High				
Male	15.5	2.9	74.9	6.7
Female	8.3	2.2	83.1	6.4
Total	12.0	2.6	78.8	6.6
Senior High				
Male	10.7	7.5	76.9	5.0
Female	5.4	5.4	85.6	3.6
Total	8.2	6.4	81.1	4.3

II. E. Availability of Gateway Drugs

The PRIDE Questionnaire asked students to respond to how easy or difficult it is for them to obtain gateway drugs. Response categories were "Cannot Get", "Fairly Difficult", "Fairly Easy", "Very Easy", and "Don't Know." The percentages of student responses to these items can be found in Volume II. For this section of Chapter II, Volume I, the categories of "Fairly Easy" and "Very Easy" were combined to provide the percentage of students that reported gateway drugs as "readily available." Table II.E.1. contain these percentage data for junior and senior high students.

The question of availability of cigarettes was not included on the PRIDE Questionnaire form as cigarettes are readily available with little or no control in most states. Indeed, in most communities cigarettes may be purchased by minors from vending machines in many public places without fear of punishment.

II.E.1. Perceived Availability of Alcohol

One of the factors contributing to use of any drug is its availability or accessibility to adolescents. Alcohol was reported as the drug most available to students. Alcoholic beverages most available to youth for consumption were beer and wine coolers. Approximately 30 percent of the junior high and over 60 percent of the senior high students reported that these alcoholic beverages were readily available. About 20 percent of junior high and 50 percent of senior high students perceived liquor to be available.

It is important that youth and adults understand that beer and

wine coolers with lower percentages of alcohol are equally as capable of causing intoxication as liquor. However, there appears to be a progression of alcohol use that begins with beer or wine coolers and moves to liquor, and drinking liquor produces higher levels of intoxication, probably due to its higher concentration of alcohol. The use of liquor by the more immature adolescent appears to be a step toward dysfunctional use of alcohol and/or illicit drug use.

Differences between male and female responses were predictable but small. Slightly more males than females at both the junior and senior high levels responded they could get alcoholic beverages "Fairly Easy or "Very Easy". There was one exception. Females at the senior high level report slightly greater availability of wine coolers than their male counterparts. The reported availability corresponds closely to the reported use of alcohol.

II.E.2. Perceived Availability of Marijuana

Marijuana was reported as being "Fairly Easy" to "Very Easy" to obtain by approximately 12 percent of the junior high students and more than one-third of the senior high students. These data indicate that this illicit drug is readily available to a large proportion of the adolescent population in Georgia. Again, males were slightly more inclined to report marijuana as readily available than females at both junior and senior high levels. Table II.E.1 contains percentages for students' responses to the perceived availability of marijuana question.

The data indicate that while the use of alcohol and marijuana by minors is illegal, it is readily available to a large percentage of the adolescent population in Georgia. Popular culture condones or even encourages the use of alcohol and, to a lesser extent, other drugs through movies, music, television, advertisements, comic books, t-shirts, etc. Until recently there have been few anti-drug messages to counter the impact of these strong influences.

It is important to discourage the illegal use of alcohol and marijuana through formal education and community prevention programs. However, it is also important to reduce the ease by which students can obtain these drugs, whether from home, a neighbor's home or from other establishments that sell alcoholic beverages to minors or from "pushers" who profit from the vulnerability of youth. Local, state and federal law enforcement agencies must; with the cooperation of students, parents, educators and the community; strive to reduce the availability of gateway drugs to minors. Law enforcement should be a part of Georgia's prevention strategy.

Table II.E.1.
Percent of Students Reporting Gateway Drugs as Readily Available*

	Beer	Wine Coolers	Liquor	Marijuana
Junior High				
Male	31.6	30.4	21.8	13.4
Female	27.4	29.4	18.5	10.8
Total	29.6	30.1	20.2	12.3
Senior High				
Male	63.9	62.1	54.6	39.0
Female	60.0	64.4	49.6	32.0
Total	62.0	63.9	52.2	35.7

* The term "Readily Available" was defined as those students who reported a drug as "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get.

CHAPTER III. OTHER ILLICIT DRUGS

Although marijuana is an illicit drug, in this report it was also classified as a gateway drug and discussed in Chapter II. The "other illicit drug" categories in the Georgia survey were cocaine, uppers, downers, inhalants and hallucinogens. Any use of these illicit drugs is extremely dangerous. The illicit drugs discussed in Chapter III are considered highly toxic and addictive. They often cause dramatic, sudden and unpredictable changes in behavior whereas, gateway drugs may require a period of months or years to cause noticable physical or psychological damage. These more toxic drugs may cause dependency, permanent damage or even death after only a short period of use or even first time use. Because these drugs are produced and distributed illegally, their purity and chemical content are unknown and are often contaminated with other poisonous chemicals.

Cocaine and other illicit drug use is not as prevalent as that of tobacco, alcohol or marijuana. However, drug abuse and addiction is usually a progressive process that begins with the gateway drugs and advances into the use of more addictive illicit drugs. Although the percentages of students that use illicit drugs are smaller than for the gateway drugs, the gravity of the practice and immediacy of the danger demands attention. Students who use these illicit drugs or combinations of drugs are at extremely high risk of addiction within a very short period of time; a condition that can destroy a child and his or her family. It is suspected

that a large percentage of students reporting illicit drug use are drug dependent and in need of professional help. Hence, it is imperative that students, parents, educators and members of the community at large be knowledgeable of patterns of illicit drug use by adolescents and alert to the signs of adolescent drug dependency.

This chapter contains information regarding the reported prevalence and patterns of illicit drug use by Georgia students in grades 6 through 12. As with Chapter II, tables and graphs describing the survey findings are located at the end of each section. In some sections in Chapter III, the illicit drugs have been grouped for convenience and efficiency of discussion. Cocaine, uppers and downers are discussed together and inhalants and hallucinogens are discussed together.

III.A. Use of Illicit Drugs

The PRIDE Questionnaire obtained student responses to questions on 1) first use of illicit drugs, 2) annual use of illicit drugs, and 3) perceived intoxicating effects resulting from use of illicit drugs. As with gateway drugs, these findings are selected from the data contained in Volume II: Survey Source Tables, and the reader is encouraged to further study these data for more in-depth understanding of illicit drug use patterns by Georgia youth.

Junior high school student responses to the questions involving use of illicit drugs was relatively low. For example,

2 percent or less of the junior high students reported using cocaine, uppers, downers, or hallucinogens within the past year. However, the use of inhalants was more similar among the junior and senior high students (see Table III.A.2.). While any use of these very dangerous drugs by any student is not to be taken lightly, discussion of illicit drug use by junior high students is omitted due to their low response pattern. The reader is referred to Volume II for further study of junior high school students' reported use of illicit drugs.

III.A.1. First Use of Illicit Drugs

Information on the approximate age that students first use illicit drugs is important to understand because prevention programs usually target students at various ages with information about specific drugs. Such an understanding is also important from the standpoint that early use of these drugs are indicators of addiction later on in adolescence or adulthood.

III.1.a. First Use of Cocaine, Uppers, and Downers

The first use of cocaine, uppers and downers by senior high students reportedly began most frequently between the ages of 14 and 15. Patterns of first use appeared to be consistent across males and females with males reporting a slightly higher frequency of first use of cocaine and downers and a slightly lower frequency of first use of uppers between the ages of 14 and 15 than their female counterparts. Table III.A.1. contains the age of first use of illicit drugs as reported by the senior high school students in

Georgia.

III.A.1.b. First Use of Inhalants and Hallucinogens

Senior high school students reported the greatest frequency of first use of both inhalants and hallucinogens (3.5% and 2.1%) between the ages of 12 and 15 years. This pattern appeared to be consistent across males and females with males reporting a slightly higher frequency of first use of inhalants (4.1%) and hallucinogens (2.6%) between 12 and 15 years than the females (2.9% and 1.5%), respectively (see Table III.A.1.).

III.A.2.. Frequency of Illicit Drug Use

As with the gateway drugs, students were asked to respond to how often they used illicit drugs within the past year using the same eight category response set ranging from "No Use" to "Daily" Use as was used for the gateway drugs. See Appendix A for a copy of the PRIDE Questionnaire. The frequency of use categories were collapsed into three use categories ("Infrequent", "Frequent" and "Very Frequent") in the same manner as they were collapsed for the gateway drugs. Tables containing frequency of illicit drug use appear at the end of this subsection. The reader is encouraged to study the complete percentage tables in Volume II for more detailed results.

III.A.2.a. Frequency of Use of Cocaine, Uppers and Downers

Although there is much media coverage about the use of cocaine and crack cocaine, fortunately the percentage of Georgia students reporting cocaine use is relatively low in comparison to the

gateway drugs. For example, 3.3 percent of the senior high students reported using cocaine or crack cocaine within the past year as compared to 14.4 percent who reported marijuana use. However, 3.3 percent of 161,153 high school students <u>just in this sample alone</u> translates into 5,318 students who are involved with cocaine, one of the most addictive drugs known.

Use of uppers by senior high students was higher than that of cocaine with 5.7 percent reporting taking stimulants within the past year. Use of downers was closer to that reported for cocaine (3.6%) for senior high students. The percentage data for senior high students and 12th grade students who reported using other illicit drugs within the past year is contained in Figure III.A. As can be observed from the bar graph, 12th grade use was slightly higher for cocaine. For more detailed data on frequency of cocaine, uppers and downers use by Georgia students refer to Table III.A.3. Also, Volume II contains percentage tables for illicit drug use by grade level.

III.A.2.b. Frequency of Use of Inhalants and Hallucinogens

The use of inhalants as reported by junior high students nearly equaled that reported by senior high students (see Tables III.A.2. and III.A.3.). The senior high use rate was 4.4 percent as compared to the junior high use rate of 3.5 percent. A higher percentage of males (4.0% junior high and 5.6% senior high) reported using inhalants than females (2.8% junior high and 3.2% senior high).

Senior high students' use of hallucinogens during the past

year was about the same as for cocaine. Overall use of hallucinogens by senior high students was reported as 3.4 percent. Senior high males reported a higher usage rate at 4.7 percent, and senior high females reported a usage rate of 2.1 percent. While these percentages are relatively small, they represent a number of students who are involved in very dangerous behavior and are at extreme risk. Table III.A.3. and Figure III.A. contain the percentages of students who reported inhalant and hallucinogen use during the past year.

III.A.3. Intoxicating Effects of Illicit Drug Use

Reported frequency of use provides critical information about prevalence of drug use among Georgia students. However, information regarding the intoxicating effects of illicit drug use is equally important. Specifically, when students use illicit drugs, what degree of intoxication do they attain? Do students report more "casual" or non-intoxicating effects when they use illicit drugs, or do they report reaching high levels of intoxication?

The term "highly intoxicated" is used for students who reported getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned." Table III.A.4. contains data on the percent of students reporting getting highly intoxicated when they use illicit drugs. These percentages were computed only for students who reported using the drug.

III.A.3.a. Intoxicating Effects of Cocaine, Uppers and Downers

It is important to understand the intoxicating effects

reported by students when using cocaine, uppers and downers. For example, of the senior high students in Georgia who reported using cocaine about 75 percent reported getting highly intoxicated when they used. About forty-one percent (40.9%) reported getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned" when using uppers, and 38.1 percent reported getting highly intoxicated when they used downers.

To restate the above findings, more than one-third of those students who reported using uppers and downers reported getting highly intoxicated, and nearly three-fourths of cocaine users reached high levels of intoxication. These data indicate that illicit drug use is not casual, but is practiced to reach extreme mind-altered states. These findings are cause for concern for students who use these drugs. Prescription and non-prescription use of stimulants and depressants should be monitored as these drugs can be dangerous when taken in non-prescribed dosages or for non-medical purposes outside the care of a physician. Any use of cocaine should be considered as evidence of a child's need for professional help.

III.A.3.b. Intoxicating Effects of Inhalants and Hallucinogens

Of those junior high students who reported using inhalants during the past year (3.5%), 28.6 percent reported getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned." The pattern of junior high male and female inhalant use was similar with 30.0 percent of the males and 24.2 percent of the females reporting reaching high intoxication levels when they use inhalants.

About 4.4 percent of the senior high students reported using

inhalants, and 38.9 percent reported getting highly intoxicated when they used. A higher percentage of males (42.0%) reported reaching high levels of intoxication than did females (32.5%).

A large majority of students who use hallucinogens reported getting highly intoxicated, and the patterns of intoxication were similar for males and females. Of the 3.4 percent of senior high students who reporting hallucinogen use, 82.5 percent reported getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned." Of the senior high males who reporting hallucinogen use, 81.8 percent reported reaching high levels of intoxication. For female senior high students this percentage was 80.8 percent. Table III.A.4. contain these comparative percentages. These data indicate that of the 3.4 percent of Georgia students who report using hallucinogens, a very high percentage are doing so to reach high levels of intoxication. These students are at extreme risk and probably in need of professional help.

Table III.A.1.
First Use of Illicit Drugs by Georgia Senior High School Students

Drug	Under 10	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	Over 20
Cocaine							
Male	0.7	0.2	0.7	1.8	1.5	0.2	0.2
Female	0.2	0.1	0.4	1.1	0.8	0.0	0.0
Total	0.4	0.2	0.5	1.5	1.1	0.1	0.1
Uppers							
Male	0.8	0.5	1.7	2.9	1.5	0.1	0.1
Female	0.2	0.3	1.6	3.2	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total	0.5	0.4	1.7	3.0	1.3	0.1	0.1
Downers							
Male	0.8	0.4	1.1	1.6	0.9	0.1	0.2
Female	0.2	0.3	1.0	1.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Total	0.5	0.4	1.1	1.6	0.7	0.1	0.1
Inhalants							
Male	1.7	1.0	2.1	2.0	0.9	0.1	0.1
Female	0.7	0.6	1.4	1.5	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total	1.2	0.8	1.7	1.8	0.7	0.1	0.1
Hallucinogens							
Male	0.7	0.3	0.7	1.9	1.4	0.1	0.1
Female	0.2	0.1	0.4	1.1	0.6	0.0	0.0
Total	0.4	0.2	0.6	1.5	1.0	0.1	0.1

Table III.A.2.
Frequency of Illicit Drug Use by Georgia Junior High Students

Drug	Infrequent	Frequent	Very Frequent	Total Use
Cocaine				
Male	0.4	0.3	0.6	1.3
Female	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.7
Total	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.0
Uppers				
Male	1.0	0.5	0.7	2.2
Female	0.8	0.3	0.5	1.6
Total	0.9	0.4	0.7	2.0
Downers				
Male	0.7	0.3	0.7	1.7
Female	0.5	0.3	0.4	1.1
Total	0.6	0.3	0.6	1.5
Inhalants				
Male	2.2	0.7	1.2	4.0
Female	1.5	0.5	0.8	2.8
Total	1.8	0.6	1.0	3.5
Hallucinogens				
Male	0.4	0.3	0.5	1.2
Female	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.7
Total	0.3	0.2	0.4	1.0

Table III.A.3.
Frequency of Illicit Drug use by Georgia Senior High Students

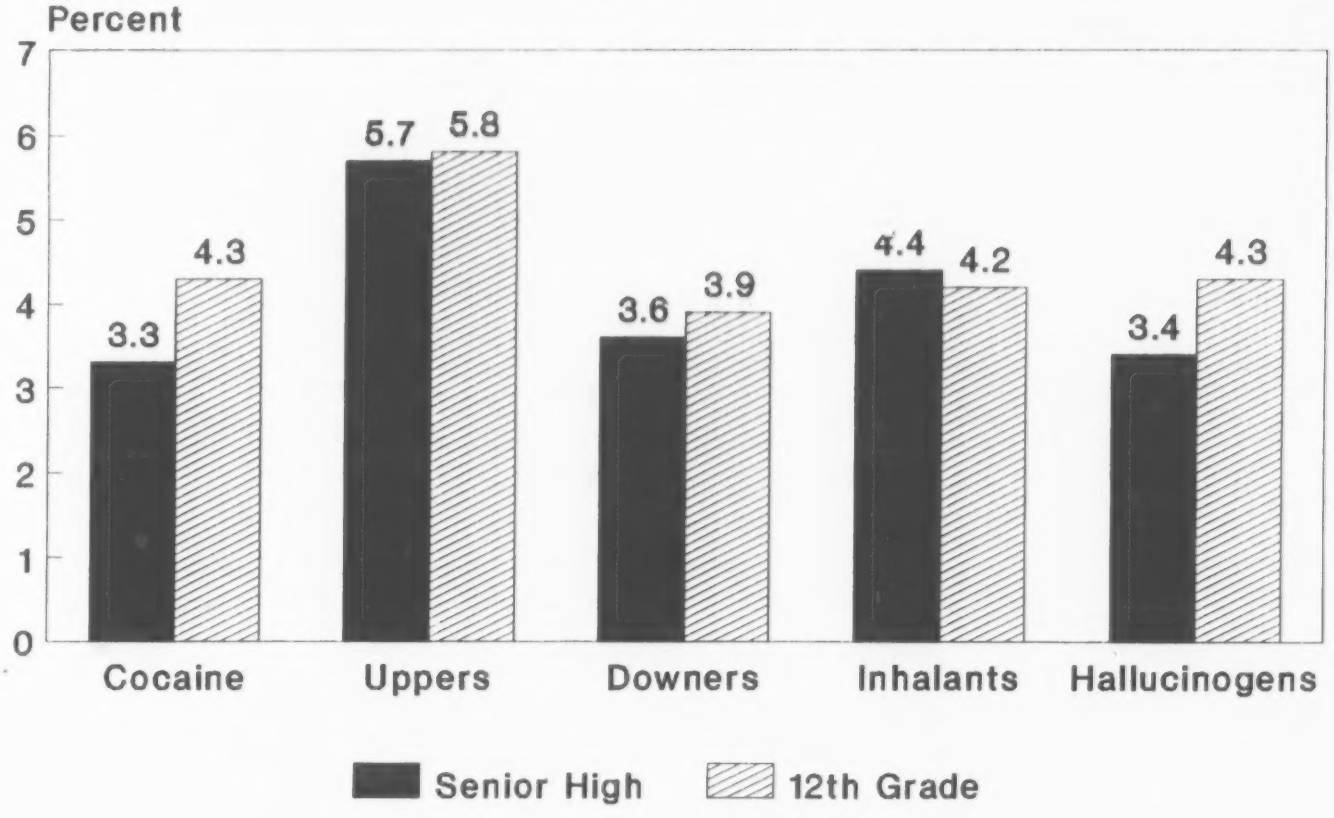
Drug	Infrequent	Frequent	Very Frequent	Total Use
Cocaine				
Male	1.7	1.0	1.9	4.5
Female	1.1	0.4	0.6	2.1
Total	1.4	0.7	1.2	3.3
Uppers				
Male	2.6	1.5	2.1	6.1
Female	2.6	1.2	1.4	5.1
Total	2.6	1.3	1.7	5.7
Downers				
Male	1.5	1.1	1.6	4.2
Female	1.2	0.9	0.8	2.9
Total	1.3	1.0	1.2	3.6
Inhalants				
Male	2.6	1.1	1.9	5.6
Female	1.8	0.6	0.8	3.2
Total	2.2	0.9	1.3	4.4
Hallucinogens				
Male	2.0	1.1	1.6	4.7
Female	1.1	0.5	0.5	2.1
Total	1.5	0.8	1.1	3.4

Table III.A.4.
Percentage of Georgia Senior High Students Reporting
High Levels of Intoxication When They Use Illicit Drugs*

Drug	Male	Female	Total
Cocaine	77.4	70.4	75.0
Uppers	44.4	39.0	40.9
Downers	44.0	32.4	38.1
Inhalants	42.0	32.5	38.9
Hallucinogen	81.8	80.8	82.5

*Percent of using students responding to getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned" when they use.

FIG.III.A: ILLICIT DRUG USE SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS



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III.B. Location and Time of Other Illicit Drug Use

Location and time of illicit drug use provides parents, school officials and others in the community with information useful in implementing effective drug abuse prevention programs related to these drug categories. Locations and times of use responded to by students were the same as for the gateway drugs. They are as follows:

Locations of Use	Times of Use
At Home	Before School
At School	During School
In a Car	After School
Friend's Home	Week nights
Other Places	Weekends

Students were allowed to mark as many locations and times of use as were applicable to them. Of course, a "Do Not Use" category was also included. As for the use items, junior high responses to location and time of use were very low and will not be included in this discussion. However, these data are provided in Tables III.B.1. and III.B.2.

III.B.1. Locations and Times of Cocaine, Uppers and Downers Use

Tables III.B.3. and III.B.4. contain percentage data for locations and times of use for Georgia students. Senior high students reported using cocaine most often at a "Friend's House" (2.4%), "At Home" (2.0%) or at "Other" places in the community (2.0%). These students reported using uppers somewhat equally across the various location categories, including "At School" (3.0%). Senior high students reported using downers most often "At

Home" (2.7%).

Regarding preferred time of use of cocaine, uppers and downers, senior high students indicated they most often used cocaine on "Weekends" (2.2%) and "Week Nights" (1.2%); uppers (3.1%) and downers (2.0%) on "Weekends." Even though the percent of responses were low across location and time categories, the pattern of use should be noted and used when planning prevention programs.

III.B.2. Location and Time of Inhalants and Hallucinogens Use

Of the 3.5 percent of junior high students who reported using inhalants, they reported most often using inhalants "At Home" (3.0%). Senior high students were somewhat more likely to use inhalants (4.4%) than junior high students. They too were more likely to use inhalants "At Home" (3%). Responses were fairly evenly distributed across other location of use categories. Senior high students reported they most often used hallucinogens at a "Friend's House" (2.5%), "At Home" (2.3%) or at "Other" places in the community (2.3%).

Regarding preferred time of use of inhalants and hallucinogens, senior high students indicated they most often used inhalants (2.3%) as well as hallucinogens (2.3%) on "Weekends." The remaining responses were less than 2 percent for any other time of use category. The pattern of responses can be noted in Table III.B.4. for consideration in planning prevention programs.

Table III.B.1.
Location of Illicit Drug use by
Georgia Junior High School Students

Drug	At Home	At School	In a Car	Friend's House	Other
Cocaine					
Male	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.2
Female	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.1
Total	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.2
Uppers					
Male	2.0	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.5
Female	2.0	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.4
Total	2.0	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.4
Downers					
Male	1.9	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.3
Female	1.8	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.2
Total	1.9	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.2
Inhalants					
Male	3.2	2.3	1.2	2.0	1.8
Female	2.9	2.1	1.2	1.9	1.6
Total	3.0	2.2	1.2	1.9	1.7
Hallucinogens					
Male	1.6	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.2
Female	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1
Total	1.6	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.1

Table III.B.2.
Time of Illicit Drug Use by Georgia Junior High School Students

Drug	Before School	During School	After School	Week Night	Weekend
Cocaine					
Male	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.9
Female	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6
Total	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.8
Uppers					
Male	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.2
Female	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.0
Total	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.1
Downers					
Male	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.9
Female	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.7
Total	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.8
Inhalants					
Male	0.6	1.5	1.2	0.9	1.7
Female	0.4	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.3
Total	0.5	1.3	1.0	0.9	1.5
Hallucinogens					
Male	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.7
Female	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4
Total	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6

Table III.B.3.
Location of Illicit Drug Use by
Georgia Senior High School Students

Drug	At Home	At School	In a Car	Friend's House	Other
Cocaine					
Male	2.5	2.0	2.3	2.8	2.5
Female	1.6	1.1	1.2	2.0	1.6
Total	2.0	1.5	1.7	2.4	2.0
Uppers					
Male	3.5	3.3	2.4	3.1	3.0
Female	3.3	2.7	1.9	2.9	2.8
Total	3.3	3.0	2.2	3.0	2.9
Downers					
Male	2.9	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.2
Female	2.5	1.5	1.3	2.0	1.8
Total	2.7	1.9	1.6	2.1	2.0
Inhalants					
Male	3.5	2.8	2.1	2.8	2.5
Female	2.5	1.8	1.2	2.0	1.8
Total	3.0	2.3	1.7	2.4	2.2
Hallucinogens					
Male	2.9	2.1	2.2	3.1	2.9
Female	1.8	1.1	1.3	2.0	1.8
Total	2.3	1.6	1.7	2.5	2.3

Table III.B.4.
Time of Illicit Drug use by Georgia Senior High School Students

Drug	Before School	During School	After School	Week Nights	Week Ends
Cocaine					
Male	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.6	2.9
Female	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.6
Total	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.2	2.2
Uppers					
Male	2.0	2.1	1.7	1.9	3.1
Female	1.7	1.6	1.1	1.5	3.1
Total	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.7	3.1
Downers					
Male	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.4	2.2
Female	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.8
Total	0.9	1.0	1.1.	1.2	2.0
Inhalants					
Male	1.1	1.8	1.5	1.5	2.8
Female	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.8	1.7
Total	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.2	2.3
Hallucinogens					
Male	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.3	3.1
Female	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.6
Total	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	2.3

III.C. Friends' Use of Illicit Drugs

Students were asked to respond to their friends' use of illicit drugs. The categories were "None", "A Few", "Several", or "A Lot." These data allowed for a measure of peer pressure to use drugs, i.e., if students have friends who use illicit drugs, they most likely will have the opportunity to use and possibly feel pressure to use themselves. In addition, this measure gives another less direct measure of overall illicit drug use among the adolescent population in Georgia.

In keeping with the lack of reported use at the junior high school level, approximately 94 percent of the students reported having no friends who use illicit drugs (see Table III.C.1.). For inhalants this percentage dropped to about 92 percent.

As expected, a larger percentage of senior high students reported having friends who use cocaine, uppers, and downers. Approximately 14 percent of the senior high students reported friends who use cocaine and uppers. For downers the percentage was about 12. Eleven percent of the senior high students reported having friends who use inhalants or hallucinogens. Table III.C.2. contains the percentages for senior high responses to friends' use of illicit drugs. Patterns between male and female senior high students' responses regarding friends' use of illicit drugs were very similar.

Table III.C.1.
Friends' Use of Illicit Drugs by
Georgia Junior High School Students

Drug	None	A Few	Several	Most
Cocaine				
Male	94.8	3.4	0.8	1.0
Female	94.2	4.3	0.8	0.7
Total	94.4	3.9	0.8	0.9
Uppers				
Male	94.3	3.5	1.0	1.1
Female	94.0	4.1	0.9	0.9
Total	94.1	3.9	1.0	1.0
Downers				
Male	95.0	3.1	0.9	1.0
Female	94.9	3.6	0.8	0.8
Total	94.8	3.4	0.9	1.0
Inhalants				
Male	92.2	5.0	1.4	1.4
Female	92.5	5.1	1.3	1.0
Total	92.3	5.0	1.4	1.2
Hallucinogens				
Male	95.9	2.4	0.7	1.0
Female	96.3	2.5	0.6	0.6
Total	96.0	2.5	0.7	0.9

Table III.C.2.
Friends' Use of Illicit Drugs by
Georgia Senior High School Students

Drug	None	A Few	Several	Most
Cocaine				
Male	86.6	9.3	1.8	2.3
Female	85.8	11.1	1.9	1.3
Total	86.1	10.2	1.9	1.8
Uppers				
Male	86.1	9.1	2.4	2.4
Female	84.9	10.8	2.7	1.6
Total	85.6	9.9	2.5	2.0
Downers				
Male	88.[illegible]	7.5	1.9	2.1
Female	88.0	8.7	2.0	1.3
Total	88.3	8.1	1.9	1.7
Inhalants				
Male	88.3	7.5	2.1	2.1
Female	89.5	7.6	1.7	1.2
Total	88.9	7.5	1.9	1.7
Hallucinogens				
Male	88.8	6.6	2.2	2.4
Female	90.1	6.6	1.9	1.3
Total	89.5	6.6	2.0	1.9

III.D. Perceived Harmful Effects of Illicit Drugs

Student responses to questions about illicit drug use being harmful to one's health are provided in Tables III.D.1. and III.D.2. for junior and senior high school students, respectively. These data suggest that a smaller percentage of younger students' perceived drugs to be "Very Much" harmful than did the older senior high school students. The junior high students also responded more frequently that they "Don't Know" if the illicit drugs are harmful to their health, and in the "No" category, indicating they perceived illicit drugs to be not harmful.

A higher percentage of male students responded that illicit drug use was not harmful than did female students. For example, 15.4 percent of junior high school male students responded that cocaine use was not harmful to their health as compared to 8.1 percent of their female peers. For senior high these percentages were 9.7 percent for males and 4.8 percent for females. The other illicit drugs followed essentially the same pattern, i.e., males more favorable toward drug use than females (see Tables III.D.1. and III.D.2.).

An interesting analysis of these data is to determine the percentage of students who responded to the categories "No" and "Don't Know." This provides an estimate of the students who have positive inclinations toward drug use or who are uninformed about the dangers of drug use. These are students who may benefit most from drug abuse education (see Table III.D.3.).

When junior high students were compared to senior high students, a greater percentage of junior high students responded that "No" drugs were not harmful or they "Don't Know" if illicit drugs are harmful. This pattern was consistent and provided dramatic evidence of the need to target younger students for prevention efforts. These data strongly support the need for drug prevention and education programs to be implemented early as part of the students' educational process to improve knowledge, skills, and attitudes about the dangers of drug use. Certainly, drug education needs to begin in elementary school and continued throughout junior and senior high. It needs to be broad-based and include school and family education programs.

It can also be seen from Table III.D.3. that both junior and senior high male students reported more positive attitudes toward drug use and less knowledge of the harmful effects of illicit drugs than did their female peers. For example, 26.8 percent of the junior high males and 17.9 percent of the senior high males responded that stimulant use is not harmful to their health or they "Don't Know" if it is harmful compared with 19.9 percent of the junior high females and only 11.7 percent of the senior high females. Regarding the perceived health hazards of using downers, 27.0 percent of the junior high males and 18.6 percent of the senior high males responded that using downers is not harmful to their health compared to 20.0 percent of the junior high females and 11.7 percent of the senior high females. Similar patterns of responses existed regarding the use of inhalants and hallucinogens.

While all students must be included in drug education and prevention programs, male students seem to be particularly at risk and may require special attention.

Table III.D.1.
Perceptions of Illicit Drugs as a Health Hazard by
Georgia Junior High School Students

Drug	No	Some-Time	Very Much	Don't Know
Cocaine				
Male	15.4	1.1	76.7	6.8
Female	8.1	0.7	84.8	6.4
Total	11.8	0.9	80.6	6.7
Uppers				
Male	15.8	3.3	69.9	11.0
Female	8.5	2.7	77.5	11.4
Total	12.2	3.0	73.6	11.2
Downers				
Male	15.9	3.3	69.8	11.1
Female	8.4	2.6	77.3	11.6
Total	12.2	3.0	73.4	11.4
Inhalants				
Male	16.3	5.5	67.9	10.3
Female	9.1	5.3	74.4	11.2
Total	12.8	5.4	71.1	10.8
Hallucinogens				
Male	15.6	1.7	72.9	9.8
Female	8.2	1.3	79.9	10.6
Total	12.0	1.5	76.3	10.2

Table III.D.2.
Perceptions of Illicit Drugs as a Health Hazard by
Georgia Senior HIgh School Students

Drug	No	Some-Time	Very Much	Don't Know
Cocaine				
Male	9.7	1.5	83.3	5.6
Female	4.8	0.9	90.4	3.9
Total	7.4	1.2	86.7	4.8
Uppers				
Male	10.7	4.3	77.2	7.2
Female	5.7	4.0	84.3	6.0
Total	8.3	4.2	80.6	6.9
Downers				
Male	10.5	4.1	77.4	8.1
Female	5.5	3.7	84.5	6.2
Total	8.1	3.9	80.8	7.2
Inhalants				
Male	10.4	4.2	77.5	7.9
Female	5.5	4.1	84.0	6.4
Total	8.0	4.1	80.6	7.2
Hallucinogens				
Male	10.1	2.1	80.8	7.0
Female	5.0	1.6	88.2	5.2
Total	7.6	1.8	84.4	6.2

Table III.D.3.
Percent of Georgia Students Responding to "No" and "Don't Know" Categories to Health Hazard Question

	Junior High			Senior High		
Drug	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Cocaine	22.2	14.5	18.5	15.3	8.7	12.2
Uppers	26.8	19.9	23.4	17.9	11.7	15.2
Downers	27.0	20.0	23.6	18.6	11.7	15.3
Inhalants	26.6	20.3	23.6	18.3	11.9	15.2
Hallucinogens	25.4	18.8	22.2	17.1	10.2	13.8

III.E. Availability of Illicit Drugs

One of the factors contributing to the use of the illicit drugs is their availability or accessibility to adolescents. Students were asked how easy it was to get the various illicit drugs. Response categories were "Can't Get", "Fairly Difficult", "Fairly Easy", "Very Easy", and "Don't Know." Percentages of junior and senior high school students' responses are contained in Tables III.E.1. and III.E.2. Table III.E.3. contains the percentage of students who responded to the categories of "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get illicit drugs. Student responses to either of these two categories were interpreted to mean that the drug was readily available.

As can be observed from Tables III.E.1. and III.E.2. the majority of Georgia students responded to categories "Can't Get" or "Don't Know" with regard to availability of illicit drugs. For example, 87.2 percent of the junior high students gave one of these two responses when asked "how easy is it to get cocaine?" For senior high students this percentage was 72.2 percent. Students' responses to availability of the other illicit drugs were similar to that of cocaine.

While the majority of junior and senior high students reported lack of access to illicit drugs, there were a number of student responses to "Fairly Easy" and "Very Easy" to get -- students who reported illicit drugs to be readily available. Table III.E.3. contains these percentages of students reporting illicit drugs to be readily available. Nearly one in ten junior high students

(9.5%) and one in four senior high students (23.7%) reported cocaine to be readily available. This translates into approximately 7,610 junior high students and 19,200 senior high students -- nearly 27,000 students in this study alone -- who reported easy access to cocaine.

Students responded similarly to other illicit drug categories. About 9 percent of the junior high students reported that uppers and downers are "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get, compared to slightly over 20 percent for senior high students. More males than females reported illicit drugs to be readily available. As expected, inhalants were reported as the drug category most readily available. Junior high students (7.5%) were less likely than senior high students (17.9%) to perceive hallucinogens to be readily available.

Table III.E.1
Availability of Illicit Drugs to
Georgia Junior High School Students

Drug	Can't Get	Fairly Difficult	Fairly Easy	Very Easy	Don't Know
Cocaine					
Male	48.7	3.5	2.7	7.3	37.7
Female	39.3	3.3	2.8	5.8	48.8
Total	44.1	3.4	2.8	6.7	43.1
Uppers					
Male	48.0	3.2	2.9	6.7	39.2
Female	38.7	2.8	2.9	5.3	50.4
Total	43.4	2.9	2.9	6.1	44.6
Downers					
Male	48.2	3.0	2.9	6.7	39.3
Female	38.7	2.6	2.9	5.1	50.7
Total	43.5	2.8	2.9	6.0	44.8
Inhalants					
Male	44.0	1.9	2.8	15.6	35.6
Female	35.8	1.8	2.8	12.8	46.9
Total	40.0	1.9	2.8	14.2	41.1
Hallucinogens					
Male	49.0	3.2	2.3	5.9	39.6
Female	39.3	2.8	2.2	4.4	51.2
Total	44.2	3.0	2.3	5.2	45.2

Table III.E.2.
Availability of Illicit Drugs to
Georgia Senior High School Students

Drug	Can't Get	Fairly Difficult	Fairly Easy	Very Easy	Don't Know
Cocaine					
Male	23.6	4.8	7.8	18.2	45.5
Female	21.3	3.6	7.7	13.3	54.2
Total	22.6	4.2	7.7	16.0	49.6
Uppers					
Male	24.1	4.1	7.3	15.9	48.7
Female	21.0	2.8	7.3	13.0	55.8
Total	22.7	3.4	7.3	14.6	52.0
Downers					
Male	24.3	4.0	7.1	15.1	49.5
Female	21.2	2.8	6.9	12.0	57.1
Total	22.9	3.3	7.0	13.7	53.1
Inhalants					
Male	22.9	2.5	5.2	24.4	45.0
Female	20.4	1.9	5.4	19.4	53.0
Total	21.8	2.1	5.3	21.8	48.9
Hallucinogens					
Male	25.0	5.1	6.2	13.7	50.1
Female	21.9	3.6	5.9	9.8	58.8
Total	23.6	4.2	6.1	11.8	54.2

Table III.E.3.
Percent of Georgia Junior and Senior High Students Reporting Illicit Drugs as Readily Available*

Drug	Junior High			Senior High		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Cocaine	10.0	8.6	9.5	26.0	21.0	23.7
Uppers	9.6	8.2	9.0	23.2	20.3	21.9
Downers	9.6	8.0	8.9	22.2	18.9	20.7
Inhalants	18.4	15.6	17.0	29.6	24.8	27.1
Hallucinogens	8.2	6.8	7.5	19.9	15.7	17.9

* Readily available is defined as student responses to either "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get.

CHAPTER IV: CONTRAST OF 1987 SURVEY FINDINGS TO 1989 SURVEY FINDINGS

Tabulations of student responses from the 1989 Georgia Survey were contrasted to the 1987 Georgia Survey findings. The items selected for contrast were the reported "Frequency of Use", "Intoxicating Effects of Drug Use", "Perceptions of Drug Use as a Health Hazard", and "Perceived Availability." Gateway drugs and other illicit drugs were examined.

Use of statistical tests of significance were not used in the comparisons since the sample size for each year was very large rendering such tests inappropriate. The schools chosen for the 1989 Georgia survey were matched with schools surveyed in 1987. The sample size in 1987 was 157,115 and the sample size in 1989 was 140,472. The contrasts of the two sets of data provided information on the change (or lack of change) that has occurred among Georgia students over the two-year period. The authors have interpreted these data based on their experience, knowledge, and perceptions of adolescent drug use patterns. The authors urge the reader to study the tables located at the end of each section and to draw your own conclusions based on these data.

IV.A. Contrasts for Frequency of Gateway and Other Illicit Drug Use

Reported annual use of drugs and alcohol has become the barometer of adolescent drug use for communities across the nation. Changes in these data indicate how well communities or states are

doing in preventing drug use among their adolescent population.

IV.A.1. Contrasts for Frequency of Gateway Drug Use

Table IV.A.1. presents percentages of junior and senior high students reporting "Infrequent", "Frequent", "Very Frequent" and "Total Use" of gateway drugs in 1987 contrasted to 1989. These data indicate that little meaningful change has occurred regarding overall frequency of use of most gateway drugs at the junior high level. The slight increases or decreases (about ± 1%) may be attributed to sample variation or measurement fluctuation. It is encouraging to note that junior high school students did not report increased levels of gateway drug use. However, the high use of gateway drugs, especially cigarettes (almost 1 in 5) and alcohol (more than 1 in 4), point to the need for increased effort in prevention activities to reduce these percentages.

Use of cigarettes by high school students remained about the same from 1987 to 1989. However, there was a 3.7 percent decline in beer use and a 3.6 percent decline in wine cooler use reported by high school students. Liquor use was stable across the two years. Senior high students also reported a slight decrease (3.2%) in smoking marijuana from 1987 to 1989. This reported decreased use of alcohol and marijuana by senior high students is indeed encouraging and should be considered a positive step toward reducing the drug and alcohol problem among Georgia students. However, it is just that, a small step. Approximately half of the students in grades 9 through 12 reported using beer and wine coolers and about 14 percent reported using marijuana. These are

still very high levels of use and point to the need for continued and accelerated drug education and prevention programs.

IV.A.2. Contrasts for Frequency of Illicit Drug Use

Table IV.A.2. indicates the change in total frequency of illicit drug use by junior and senior high school students in Georgia in 1987 compared to 1989. With the exception of inhalants the illicit drug use of junior high students was quite low (< 2%) for both 1987 and 1989, and there did not seem to be a meaningful change across the two year period. Inhalant use rate for junior high students was 2.9 percent in 1987 and rose to 3.5 percent in 1989. While this increase was small, inhalant use among the younger students needs to be monitored for possible future increases. This category of drug use is especially important given the extremely dangerous effects of inhalant use by adolescents.

Use of illicit drugs by senior high students was considerably lower than for gateway drugs for 1987 and 1989. There did not seem to be major differences in frequency of use across the various drug categories, although the tendency was for slightly increased use. However, the differences were quite small and could be due to sample variations. Frequency of illicit drug use needs to be monitored annually to determine if these tendencies are becoming trends or just sample or measurement fluctuations.

Table IV.A.1.
Contrast of 1987 and 1989 Frequency of Gateway Drug Use by Georgia Junior and Senior High Students

	Infrequent	Frequent	Very Frequent	Total
Cigarettes				
Jr. High				
1987	9.2	2.5	6.6	18.3
1989	9.7	2.6	7.1	19.4
Sr. High				
1987	10.6	4.0	14.6	29.2
1989	10.8	3.8	14.3	28.9
Beer				
Jr. High				
1987	16.7	5.2	4.9	26.7
1989	16.1	4.9	4.6	25.6
Sr. High				
1987	22.0	14.6	15.3	51.8
1989	21.8	12.9	13.4	48.1
Wine Coolers				
Jr. High				
1987	17.2	5.4	3.9	26.5
1989	17.1	5.1	4.1	26.3
Sr. High				
1987	26.9	16.4	10.4	53.7
1989	27.0	14.1	9.1	50.1
Liquor				
Jr. High				
1987	7.9	2.7	2.2	12.8
1989	8.0	2.7	2.3	13.0
Sr. High				
1987	17.4	11.4	8.0	36.8
1989	17.4	10.6	7.9	35.9
Marijuana				
Jr. High				
1987	2.0	0.9	1.3	4.2
1989	1.8	0.8	1.2	3.8
Sr. High				
1987	7.4	3.9	5.8	17.1
1989	6.1	3.2	4.7	13.9

Table IV.A.2.
Contrast of 1987 and 1989 Frequency of Illicit Drug Use by Georgia Junior and Senior HIgh Students

	Infrequent	Frequent	Very Frequent	Total
Cocaine				
Jr. High				
1987	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.9
1989	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.0
Sr. High				
1987	1.7	0.7	1.1	3.4
1989	1.4	0.7	1.2	3.3
Uppers				
Jr. High				
1987	0.7	0.4	0.5	1.5
1989	0.9	0.4	0.6	1.9
Sr. High				
1987	2.4	1.3	1.5	5.2
1989	2.5	1.3	1.7	5.6
Downers				
Jr. High				
1987	0.5	0.3	0.4	1.2
1989	0.6	0.3	0.5	1.4
Sr. High				
1987	1.3	0.9	0.9	3.1
1989	1.4	0.9	1.2	3.5
Inhalants				
Jr. High				
1987	1.7	0.5	0.8	2.9
1989	1.8	0.6	1.0	3.5
Sr. High				
1987	2.0	0.7	0.9	3.6
1989	2.2	0.8	1.4	4.4
Hallucinogens				
Jr. High				
1987	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.8
1989	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.9
Sr. High				
1987	1.2	0.6	0.8	2.5
1989	1.4	0.7	1.1	3.2

IV.B. Contrast of Perceived Intoxicating Effects of Gateway and Illicit Drugs

Just as frequency of drug use helps to determine use rates of the various drugs, reported intoxication levels reached when the drugs are used provides important information about the patterns of drug use. Although little change was noted for frequency of drug use among junior and senior high students from 1987 to 1989, was there a change in the pattern of drug use related to degree of intoxication reported by students? Table IV.B.1 contains the percentages of students who reorted getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned" when they use the drug. These percentages were computed for those students who reported using the drug and did not include the non-user.

IV.B.1. Contrasts of Reported Intoxicating Effects of Gateway Drug Use

There did not appear to be a change in the percentages of students who reported reaching high levels of intoxication when they drank beer, wine coolers, or liquor. The effects of alcohol appeared to present a stable pattern from 1987 to 1989. However, there was an increase in intoxication levels reached when students smoked marijuana. In 1987, 58.8 percent of junior high students reported getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned" when they smoked marijuana. In 1989, this percentage was 63.3, an increase of 4.5 percent in two years.

For senior high students the percent of students reporting high intoxication levels when using marijuna increased by 4.0

percent, from 62.1 percent in 1987 to 66.1 percent in 1989. These data suggests that while a smaller percentage of Georgia students are using marijuana, those who do are reaching higher levels of intoxication with use.

IV.B.2. Contrasts of Reported Intoxicating Effects of Other Illicit Drug Use

There was an increase in the percent of junior high students reporting getting highly intoxicated when using cocaine, downers, and inhalants. Conversely, there was a decrease in percentage of students reporting getting highly intoxicated when using uppers and hallucinogens. It should be remembered that a very small percent of junior high students reported using illicit drugs (under 2%), and these percentages may not be as stable as for senior high students. Table IV.B.1. contains comparative percentage data for junior and senior high school students.

There was a more stable pattern of increases at the senior high level. For students using cocaine, the increase in percent of students reporting high intoxication levels increased 7.7 percent from 69.2 percent in 1987 to 76.9 percent in 1989. The increase for uppers was from 37.3 percent in 1987 to 41.5 percent in 1989. There was an increase for downers and inhalants as well. Only the hallucinogen pattern of use remained stable. However, hallucinogens was the category of drugs that received the greatest percent of students responding to "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned" when the drug was used (over 80%), which may limit differences

between the samples. While the percentage of students using drugs changes little, if at all, the percent of students reporting high levels of intoxication appeared to have increased from 1987 to 1989.

Table IV.B.1.
Contrast of the 1987 and 1989 Georgia Survey Findings for Reported High Levels of Intoxication by Junior and Senior High Students*

	Junior High 1987	Junior High 1989	Senior High 1987	Senior High 1989
Beer	9.1	10.2	19.7	20.2
Wine Coolers	4.0	4.6	9.3	8.0
Liquor	31.9	32.9	50.9	51.4
Marijuana	58.8	63.3	62.1	66.1
Cocaine	69.2	73.3	69.2	76.9
Uppers	47.4	45.8	37.3	41.5
Downers	40.0	42.1	36.1	39.0
Inhalants	25.7	28.6	31.0	37.7
Hallucinogens	66.7	64.3	82.8	81.6

* High levels of intoxication is defined as the percent of users who reported getting "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned" when they used the drug.

IV.C. Contrast of Perceived Harmful Health Effects of Gateway and Other Illicit Drug Use

In 1987 and 1989 Georgia students were asked to give their opinion about the harmful effects of drug and alcohol use. Possible responses were "No" harmful effects, "Sometimes" harmful, "Very Much" harmful or "Don't Know." Because this item solicits student opinions about health effects, the degree that students were knowledgeable about the harmful effects of adolescent drug and alcohol use is unclear. For example, students who respond that drug use is not harmful or only sometimes harmful may be uninformed or misinformed about drug use, or they may simply choose to ignore the information on health consequences of drug and alcohol use. What ever the case, their opinion is important in relation to their current and/or future drug use behavior.

IV.C.1. Contrast of Perceived Health Hazards of Gateway Drug Use

Students were asked in 1987 and again in 1989 about their perceptions of the harmful effects of gateway drug use. It can be observed from responses to the "Very Much" harmful category in Table IV.C.1. that there was very little change from 1987 to 1989 regarding the perceived harmful effects of cigarettes, liquor and marijuana for both junior and senior high students.

The pattern of responses changed somewhat for beer and wine cooler use. In 1987, 49.8 percent of the junior high and 43 percent of the senior high students responded to drinking beer as "Very Much" a health threat. These percentages increased to 54.0

percent for junior high and 49.3 percent for senior high in 1989. Despite the greater alcohol content, fewer students gave wine coolers a "Very Much" harmful response. However, there was an increase of about 3 to 4 percent in responses to this category from 1987 to 1989. The percentage of responses in the "Very Much" category changed very little from 1987 to 1989 for liquor and marijuana.

This change in attitude toward beer and wine cooler use is encouraging and suggests that there has been a positive influence on Georgia youth for the two-year period. However, responses to harmful effects of cigarette, liquor and marijuana use are not as favorable. There are still too many youth who are not strongly convinced that gateway drugs are dangerous. In general, there was little, if any, decline in "No" responses to the harmfulness of alcohol and marijuana use from 1987 to 1989. Data indicate that about the same percent of students reported these drugs as not harmful in 1987 and 1989 and suggest the predisposition of students to use gateway drugs. Again, the monitoring of student attitudes is important to track the progress being made in this area.

IV.C.2. Contrast of Perceived Health Hazards of Illicit Drug Use

As with the gateway drugs, students were asked in 1987 and again in 1989 about their perceptions of the harmful effects of illicit drug use. It can be observed from responses to the "Very Much" harmful category in Table IV.C.2. that there was very little change from 1987 to 1989 regarding the perceived harmful effects of illicit drugs for both junior and senior high students.

However, there was a very slight tendency for more students to report an acceptance of illicit drugs as not harmful as evidenced by the increase in percent of responses in the "No" category.

Findings from this question indicated that there were gains in some areas, no change in some areas, and tendencies for loosing ground in some areas. The positive areas were the increases in percentages of students who have a strong opinion that cigarette and alcohol use is dangerous to their health. Student opinions about liquor, marijuana, and other illicit drug use remained stable from 1987 to 1989. There was a slight increase in the percent of students who feel illicit drug use is not harmful.

Table IV.C.1.
Contrast of 1987 and 1989 Perceived Health Hazards of Gateway Drug Use by Georgia Junior and Senior High Students

	No	Sometimes	Very Much	Don't Know
Cigarettes				
Jr. High				
1987	10.7	15.0	67.5	6.7
1989	11.5	14.6	67.8	6.1
Sr. High				
1987	7.1	16.1	73.1	3.6
1989	7.8	15.1	73.5	3.5
Beer				
Jr. High				
1987	14.5	26.6	49.8	9.1
1989	14.0	24.4	54.0	7.5
Sr. High				
1987	14.1	37.5	43.0	5.3
1989	12.8	33.6	49.3	4.3
Wine Coolers				
Jr. High				
1987	22.4	24.9	39.9	12.8
1989	21.4	24.2	43.7	10.7
Sr. High				
1987	24.0	34.6	33.4	8.0
1989	22.9	32.1	38.4	6.6
Liquor				
Jr. High				
1987	11.5	12.8	67.6	8.1
1989	12.2	12.2	68.6	7.1
Sr. High				
1987	8.9	21.8	65.0	4.3
1989	9.1	20.2	66.7	4.0
Marijuana				
Jr. High				
1987	10.7	2.7	79.2	7.2
1989	11.7	2.6	79.1	6.5
Sr. High				
1987	7.6	7.4	80.3	4.7
1989	8.3	6.2	81.1	4.4

Table IV.C.2.
Contrast of 1987 and 1989 Perceived Health Hazard of Illicit Drug Use by Georgia Junior and Senior High Students

	No	Sometimes	Very Much	Don't Know
Cocaine				
Jr. High				
1987	10.5	0.9	81.4	7.2
1989	11.6	0.9	80.9	6.6
Sr. High				
1987	6.8	1.3	86.8	5.1
1989	7.5	1.2	86.5	4.8
Uppers				
Jr. High				
1987	10.9	2.8	74.5	11.9
1989	12.0	3.0	73.9	11.1
Sr. High				
1987	7.7	4.4	80.4	7.6
1989	8.4	4.0	80.6	7.0
Downers				
Jr. High				
1987	10.8	2.7	74.3	12.1
1989	12.0	3.0	73.8	11.3
Sr. High				
1987	7.5	4.0	80.7	7.8
1989	8.2	3.8	80.8	7.2
Inhalants				
Jr. High				
1987	11.3	5.0	71.4	12.3
1989	12.5	5.4	71.3	10.8
Sr. High				
1987	7.5	3.9	80.5	8.1
1989	8.2	4.0	80.5	7.3
Hallucinogens				
Jr. High				
1987	10.6	1.4	76.8	11.2
1989	11.7	1.5	76.6	10.2
Sr. High				
1987	7.0	1.6	84.5	6.9
1989	7.8	1.7	84.2	6.3

IV.D. Contrast of Perceived Availability of Gateway and Other Illicit Drugs

The availability of drugs is a factor in determining the use of drugs by adolescents. The availability of gateway and other illicit drugs were compared for the two year period, 1987 to 1989. In both the 1987 and 1989 Georgia surveys junior and senior high school students were asked "How easy is it to get" the gateway drugs and other illicit drugs. Possible responses were "Can't Get", "Fairly Difficult", "Fairly Easy", "Very Easy" and "Don't Know." Table IV.D.1. contains the percentage of students who responded to being able to get drugs "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy."

IV.D.1. Contrast of Perceived Availability of Gateway Drugs

Georgia students at the junior and senior high levels reported increased availability of alcohol and marijuana. Table IV.D.1. and figures IV.D.1. and IV.D.2. contain the percentage of students in junior and senior high, respectively, who responded that alcohol and marijuana were "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get. The comparisons of junior high student responses in 1987 and 1989 indicated that availability ("Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get) of beer increased from 27.5 percent to 29.8 percent. For senior high the increase was from 58.1 percent to 61.5 percent. Wine coolers and liquor showed similar increases in reported availability.

Reported availability of marijuana in 1987 compared to 1989 indicated an increase of 2.3 percent for the junior high students

and 3.0 percent for senior high students. These reported increases in availability of gateway drugs are indicative of the need for increased drug and alcohol use prevention in Georgia schools and communities.

IV.D.2. Contrast of Perceived Availability of Illicit Drugs

There was an increase in reported availability of illicit drugs by junior and senior high school students. Table IV.D.1. and figure IV.D.3. contains information on the percentage of junior high students who reported illicit drugs as readily available. As with the gateway drugs, the students indicated a 2 to 3 percentage point increase in responding that illicit drugs are "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get. For example, in 1987, 6.2 percent of the junior high students in Georgia reported cocaine was readily available as compared to 9.3 percent in 1989, a one-third increase in two years.

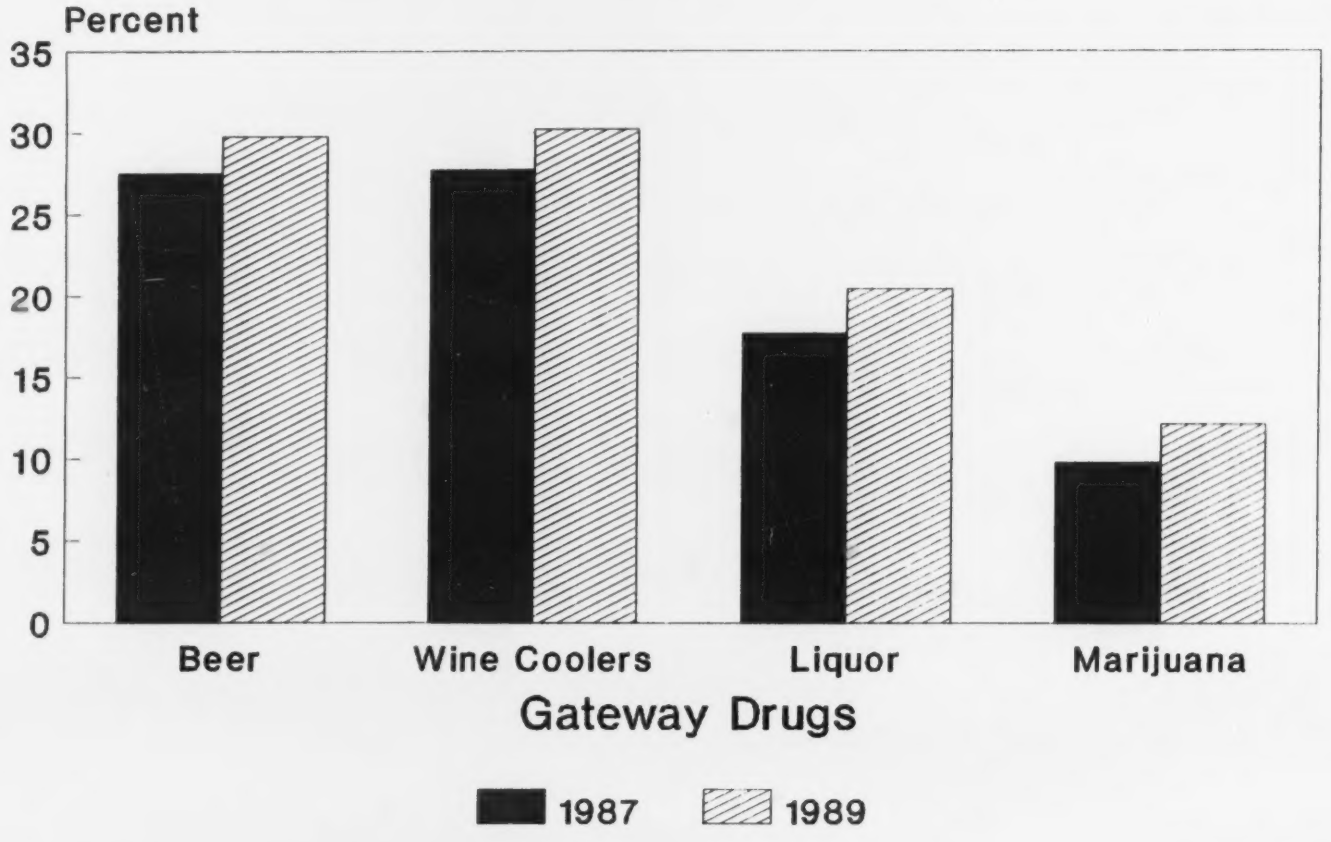
Senior high students also reported increased availability of illicit drugs from 1987 to 1989 (see Figure IV.D.4.). In 1989 nearly a fourth of the senior high students in grades 9 through 12 reported cocaine as "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get. This was up 7.1 percentage points from 1987. The percentages of reported availability of stimulants and depressants in 1989 were higher than in the 1987 survey. The perceived availability of hallucinogens has also increased, but not as much as for the other illicit drugs.

Table IV.D.1.
Contrast of the 1987 and 1989 Georgia Survey Findings for Reported Availability of Drugs by Junior and Senior High Students*

	Junior High 1987	Junior High 1989	Senior High 1987	Senior High 1989
Beer	27.5	29.8	58.1	61.5
Wine Coolers	27.7	30.2	60.3	63.6
Liquor	17.7	20.4	46.2	51.6
Marijuana	9.8	12.1	32.2	35.2
Cocaine	6.2	9.3	16.4	23.5
Uppers	6.4	8.9	16.9	21.7
Downers	6.3	8.8	15.7	20.5
Inhalants	13.7	17.1	21.5	26.7
Hallucinogens	5.1	7.4	12.0	13.4

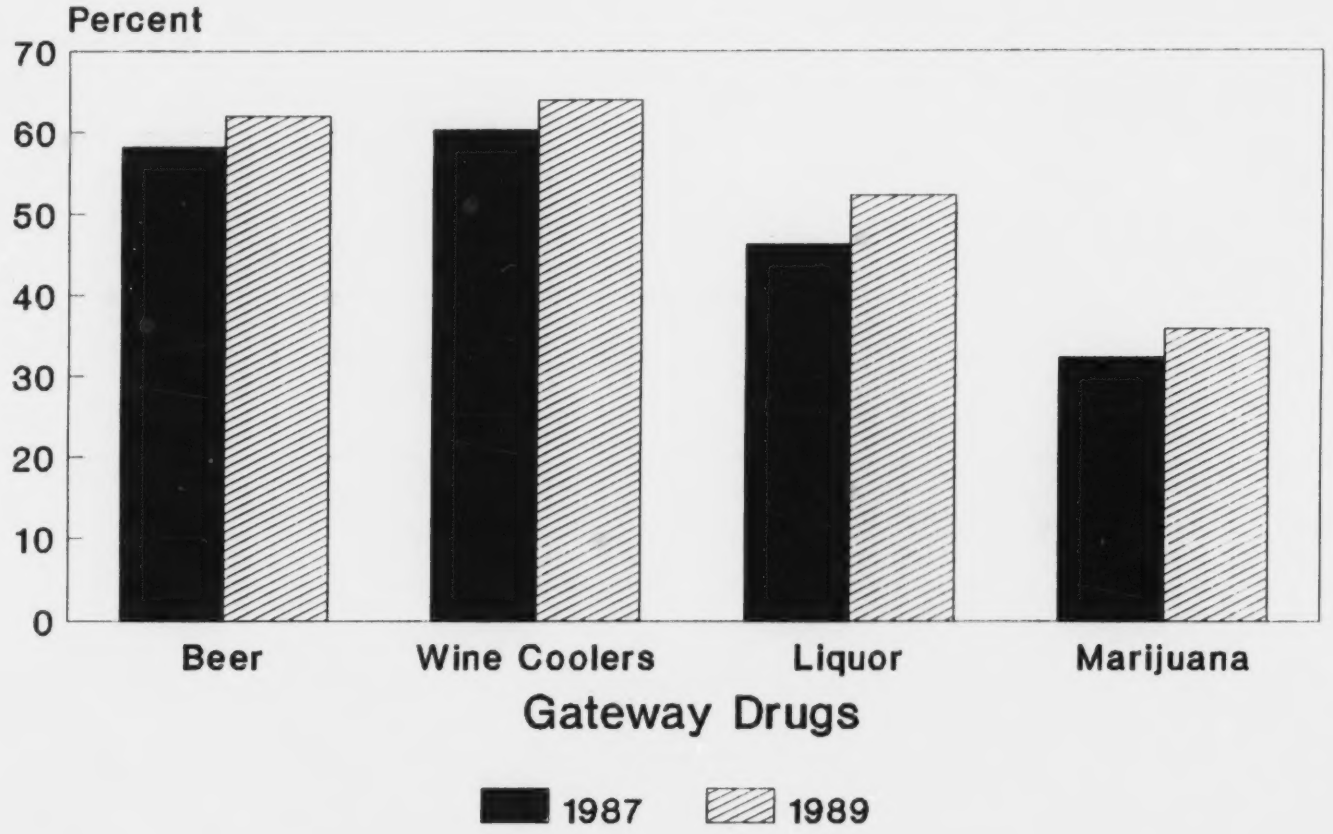
* Availability of drugs is defined as the sum of percentages in categories "Fairly Easy" and "Very Easy" to get.

Figure IV.D.1. High Availability of Gateway Drugs for Jr. High Students



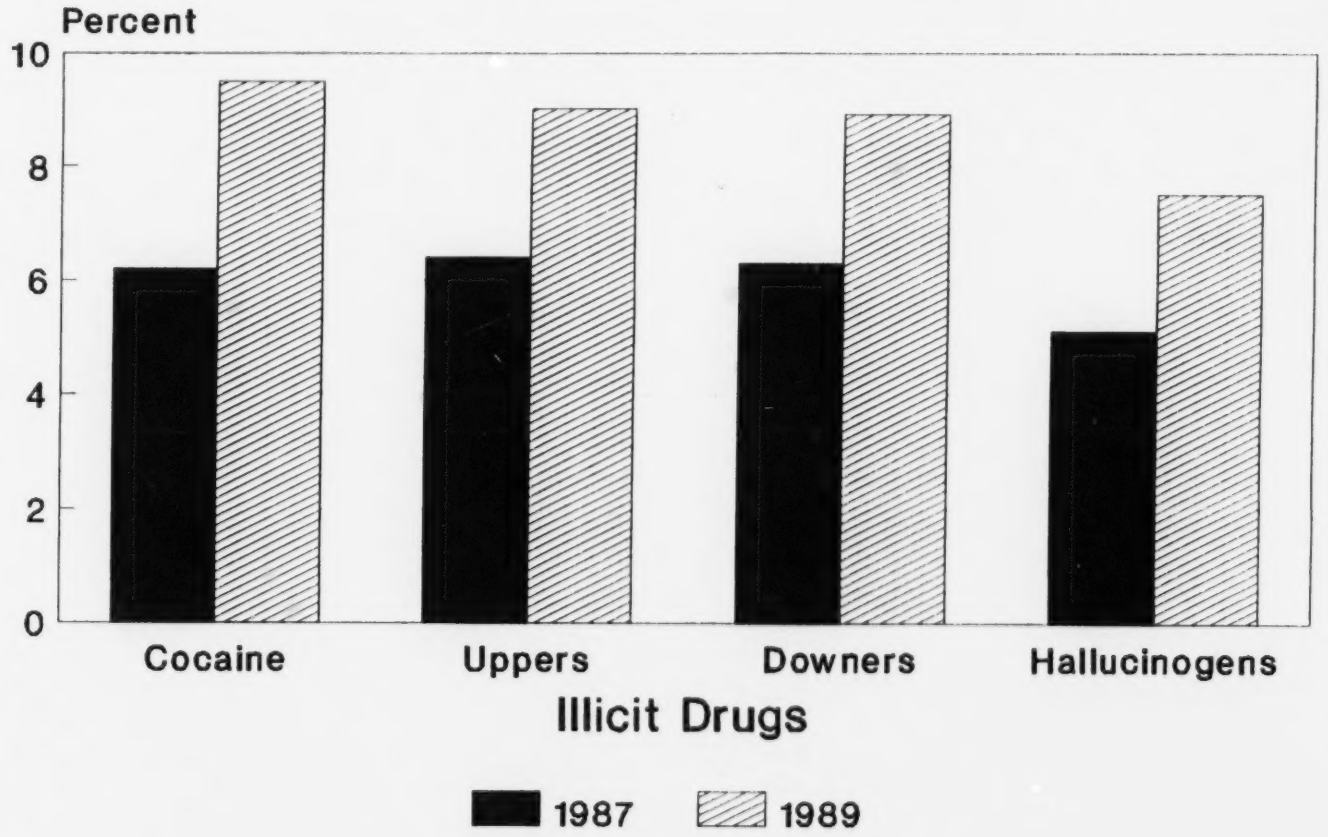
1987 & 1989 Georgia Survey Data

Figure IV.D.2. High Availability of Gateway Drugs for Sr. High Students



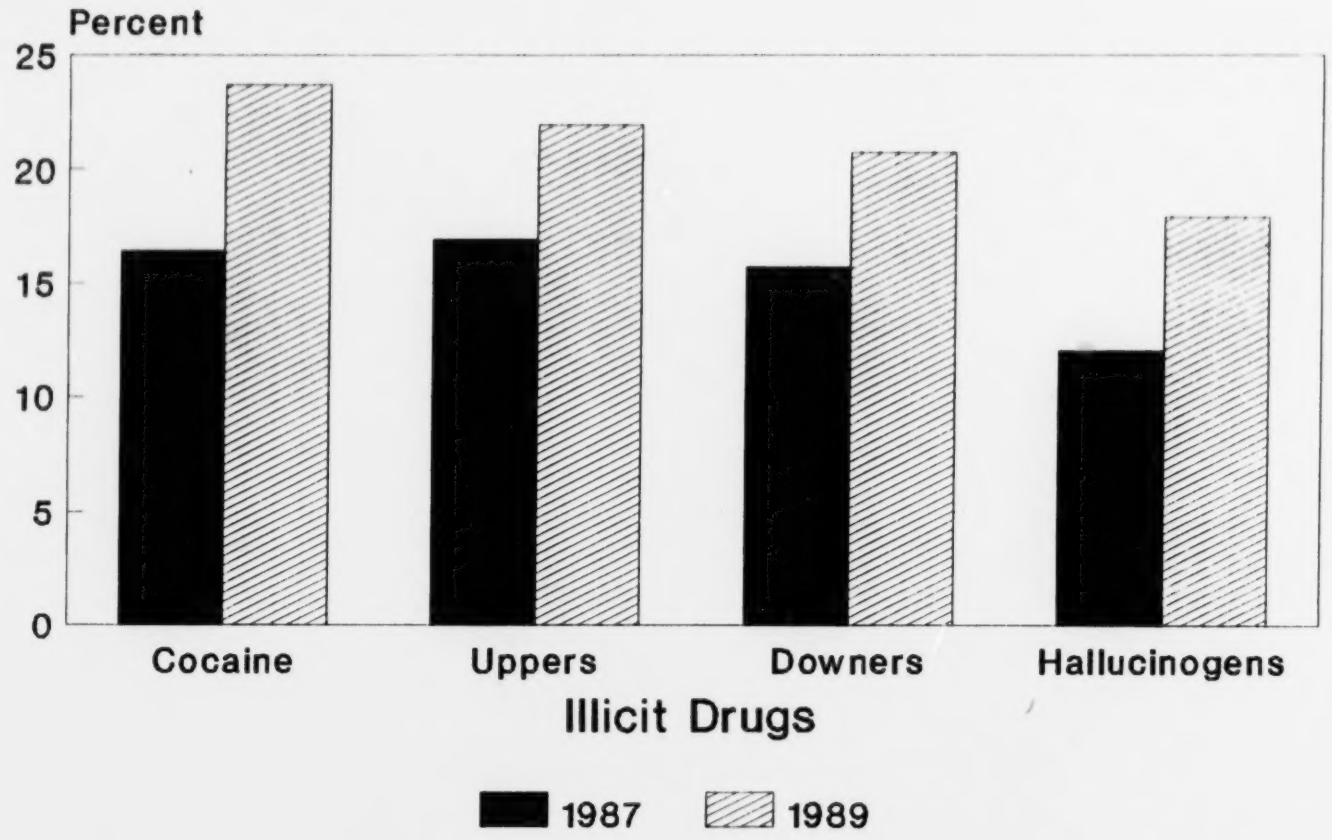
1987 & 1989 Georgia Survey Data

Figure IV.D.3. High Availability of Illicit Drugs for Jr. High Students



1987 & 1989 Georgia Survey Data

Figure IV.D.4. High Availability of Illicit Drugs for Sr. High Students



1987 & 1989 Georgia Survey Data

CHAPTER V: SUMMARY

The 1989 Georgia Survey of Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Use was conducted in 373 schools throughout Georgia. The stratified random sample was obtained from schools that participated in the 1987 survey (93% of the school systems in Georgia participated in the 1987 survey) and were selected randomly from strata based on size of community and geographic location. The sample size for the 1989 survey was 161,153.

The report of findings from the survey were in two volumes: Volume I contains the narrative report and Volume II contains the survey summary tables. In the narrative report, findings from the survey were reported in three chapters: Chapter II: Gateway Drugs, Chapter III: Other Illicit Drugs, and Chapter IV: Contrasts of 1989 Results to 1987 Results. Chapter V is a summary of the findings from each of these chapters that the authors felt were particularly important. The first part of this summary contains the 1989 results, followed by a summary of the 1987 and 1989 comparisons.

V.A. 1989 Survey Summary Results

Student responses indicated that male students were more likely to smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol, and smoke marijuana than were female students, with the exception that a higher percentage of senior high girls reported wine cooler use than senior high boys. Overall, about one-fourth of the junior high and one-half

the senior high students reported drinking beer and/or wine coolers within the past year. However, fewer students reported reaching high levels of intoxication when drinking beer and wine coolers than was reported for any other drug category. For example, about 20 percent of the senior high students reported getting intoxicated when drinking beer and only 8 percent reported getting intoxicated when they drink wine coolers.

About one-third of the senior high students reported using liquor, and about half of these students reported reaching high levels of intoxication when they use liquor. It appears that not only is alcohol a gateway drug, but there is progression of alcohol use from beer and wine coolers to liquor. And, more students report getting highly intoxicated when they drink liquor than for other alcoholic beverages.

One in seven students (14.3%) in grades 9 through 12 admitted to smoking marijuana within the past year. Two-thirds of these students indicated that they get highly intoxicated when they smoke marijuana. Marijuana use by these young students is not "casual" use, rather students use marijuana to get "high."

While any use of illicit drugs by adolescents is intolerable, drug use by junior high students was low in comparison to senior high students, and other illicit drug use by senior high students was low in comparison to cigarette, alcohol, and marijuana use. For senior high students less than 4 percent reported use of cocaine, depressants, or hallucinogens. Less than 6 percent reported stimulant or inhalant use. However, for those students

who reported using these more toxic drugs, a high percentage reported getting highly intoxicated. For example, of the senior high students reporting cocaine use, three-fourths reported getting highly intoxicated with use. For hallucinogen users, over 80 percent reported getting highly intoxicated. These data strongly suggest that if a student is found using illicit drugs, professional help should be obtained immediately.

Location and time of drug and alcohol use was relatively consistent. Use of these drugs did not occur at school and the slogan of "drug-free schools" is a poor choice since most schools are relatively drug and alcohol-free. The most popular places of drug and alcohol use were the student's home, a friend's home, and in other places in the community. For older students, a car was also a popular place to drink and smoke marijuana. Weekends were by far the most popular time of use. It appears that adolescents use drugs and alcohol at times and places when there is social activity. This pattern of drug use further suggests that drug prevention is a community-wide problem that must be addressed by parents, law enforcement, business and community leaders, churches, and others in the community as well as by schools.

Slightly under 50 percent of junior high students and 80 percent of the senior high students reported friends who use beer or wine coolers. At the junior high level, about 13 percent report having at least a few marijuana smoking friends. For senior high students the percentage is higher at 38.4 percent. These data suggest that many Georgia students at the junior and senior high

level are exposed to drug use through peer association and must make the decision to use or not to use on a regular basis.

The older senior high students tended to report beer and wine cooler use as less harmful and illicit drug use as more harmful than the younger junior high students. These differences were small, but have implications for targeting drug and alcohol prevention and education programs in Georgia.

About 30 percent of the junior high students and over 60 percent of the senior high students reported that beer and wine coolers were "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get. One in eight junior high and one in three senior high students reported that marijuana was readily accessible. Relatively few junior high students reported illicit drugs as easily obtained, but more than one in five senior high students in grades 9 through 12 reported cocaine and other illicit drugs were readily available.

V.B. Summary of the 1987 and 1989 Comparisons

Student responses from the 1989 Georgia survey were compared to the 1987 Georgia survey findings in four areas: frequency of use, intoxicating effects of use, perceived health effects, and availability. Schools were matched so that each sample contained students from the same schools. Each sample contained over 140,000 student responses. By contrasting the findings from the two years using the matched samples, changes in drug use patterns by Georgia students may be estimated.

There was not meaningful change in frequency of drug or

alcohol use by junior high students with the possible exception of inhalants. Inhalant use increased from 2.9 percent in 1987 to 3.5 percent in 1989. While this increase is small, it should be monitored to see if this is a trend developing for this age student.

There were some changes noted for senior high students' use of drugs and alcohol. A small but consistent decrease was observed in reported use of beer and wine coolers among the senior high students. For example, 51.8 percent of the senior high students reported using beer in 1987 as compared to 48.1 percent in 1989, a 3.1 percent decrease. A similar decrease was reported for wine coolers with 53.7 percent reported use in 1987 compared to 50.1 percent in 1989. For liquor, the difference was negligible. This decreased use of beer and wine coolers by senior high students is encouraging and should be monitored annually to determine if the trend continues.

Marijuana use by senior high students also declined slightly. In 1987, 17.1 percent of the students reported using marijuana as compared to 13.9 percent in 1989. Again, this drop of 3.2 percent is very encouraging and represents a decline of nearly 19 percent in marijuana use. Unfortunately, the trend of decreased use among high school students was not evident for other illicit drugs. Differences among rate of illicit drug use for 1987 and 1989 were quite small, with a very slight tendency for increased use, especially for uppers, inhalants, and hallucinogens. It is recommended that annual surveys of student illicit drug use be

conducted to determine if the percent of students reporting marijuana use continues to decrease and to carefully monitor the other illicit drug use.

Students were asked to indicate the level of intoxication they most often reached when using each drug or alcoholic beverage. Those responding "Very High" or "Bombed/Stoned" were considered to reach high levels of intoxication routinely when they used drugs. Percentage data were computed of those students who reported reaching high levels of intoxication when using the drug or alcoholic beverage. These percentages were computed only for those students who indicated that they used the drug and did not include the non-users.

Differences between the 1987 and 1989 samples regarding reported high levels of intoxication were negligible for alcohol. However, there was an increase in the percent of senior high students who reported getting highly intoxicated when they use using illicit drugs. In 1989, 66.1 percent of the marijuana users, reported reaching high levels of intoxication as compared to 62.1 percent in 1987. For cocaine users the percentages were 76.9 percent in 1989 compared to 69.2 percent in 1987. Similar increases were observed for other illicit drug categories with the exception of hallucinogens where negligible change occurred. Thus, while frequency of marijuana use among senior high students appears to be declining, a greater proportion of those students become highly intoxicated when they smoke pot. In addition, the reported levels of intoxication by illicit drug users increased over the

two-year period, suggesting that more students are using these drugs to become highly intoxicated.

There were some encouraging results when the 1989 survey findings were contrasted to 1987 findings regarding health effects of beer and wine cooler use. There was an increase in the percent of students who responded that drinking beer and wine coolers was "Very Much" harmful to their health. For example, in 1987, 49.8 percent of the junior high students responded that beer use was harmful as compared to 54.0 percent in 1989. Wine coolers had a similar positive increase in this response from 39.9 percent in 1987 to 43.7 percent in 1989. However, these alcoholic beverages are still perceived as not harmful or only "Sometimes" harmful by a large proportion of junior and senior high students, and more education efforts appear to be need in this area. Student responses to health effects of using cigarettes, liquor and illicit drugs did not show meaningful change from 1987 to 1989. However, the majority of the students responded that these use of these drugs would be "Very Much" harmful to their health.

Accessibility to drugs is a factor in adolescent drug use. If drugs are readily available, it is more likely that young people will try them. Students were asked to respond to how easy it is for them to get drugs and alcoholic beverages. Percentages were computed for students reporting "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to this question. These percentages were contrasted for 1987 and 1989 to determine if drugs and alcohol was more or less available. In every drug and alcohol category, there was an increase in reported

availability. For example, in 1987, 46.2 percent of the senior high students reported easy access to liquor; for 1989 the percentage was 51.6 percent. In 1987, 9.8 percent of the junior high students reported easy access to marijuana as compared to 12.1 percent in the 1989 sample. Easy access to cocaine by senior high students increased from 16.4 percent in 1987 to 23.5 percent in 1989. These data strongly suggest that Georgia youth may be more at risk in 1989 that in 1987, due to the increased availability of alcohol and illicit drugs.

These comparisons of 1987 and 1989 survey findings provide the following conclusions for Georgia students:

1. Fewer senior high students are drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana, but use rate of other illicit drugs has not changed. There was no change in use rate of alcohol or illicit drugs for junior high students.

2. For students who use illicit drugs, there was an increase in the percent who reach high levels of intoxication.

3. More students reported that using beer and wine coolers was hazardous to their health. This positive outcome was not evident for liquor or illicit drugs.

4. An increased percentage of junior and senior high students reported that alcohol and illicit drugs were "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to get.

At a time when there is increased availability of drugs and alcohol, fewer students are using beer, wine coolers and marijuana, and drug use has not appreciably increased. Gains have been made in student education and attitudes regarding the health effects of using beer and wine coolers. However, more students who report using illicit drugs appear to be doing so at a destructive rate suggesting that even more students are or will become dependent on

these drugs and require professional treatment in the future. The data contained in Volumes I and II need careful study by planners and annual surveys are strongly recommended to monitor the drug and alcohol use patterns of Georgia students.

A P P E N D I X A

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THE PRIDE USA

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR GRADES 6–12

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I. PERSONAL AND FAMILY INFORMATION

1. Ethnic origin:
   - ○ White
   - ○ Black
   - ○ Hispanic
   - ○ Asian
   - ○ Native American

2. Sex:
   - ○ Male
   - ○ Female

3. Age: (0) (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9)

4. Grade: (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12)

5. Do your parents live
   - ○ together?
   - ○ apart?

6. Does your father have a job?
   - ○ Yes, full-time
   - ○ Yes, part-time
   - ○ No

7. Does your mother have a job?
   - ○ Yes, full-time
   - ○ Yes, part-time
   - ○ No

8. Do you have a job?
   - ○ Yes, full-time
   - ○ Yes, part-time
   - ○ No

9. What is the educational level of your father? / mother?
   - ○ ○ some high school
   - ○ ○ high school graduate
   - ○ ○ some college
   - ○ ○ college graduate

II. STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

	NEVER	SELDOM	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	A LOT
1. Do you make good grades?	○	○	○	○	○
2. Do you get into trouble at school?	○	○	○	○	○
3. Do you play on a sports team(s)?	○	○	○	○	○
4. Do you attend church or synagogue?	○	○	○	○	○
5. Do you drive a car?	○	○	○	○	○
6. Do you ride in a car with friends?	○	○	○	○	○
7. Do you date?	○	○	○	○	○
8. Do you bring friends home?	○	○	○	○	○
9. Do you talk to your parents about your problems?	○	○	○	○	○
10. Do you talk to your friends about your problems?	○	○	○	○	○
11. Do you watch rock videos?	○	○	○	○	○
12. Do you like the way you look?	○	○	○	○	○
13. Are your parents strict with you?	○	○	○	○	○
14. Do you feel lonely?	○	○	○	○	○

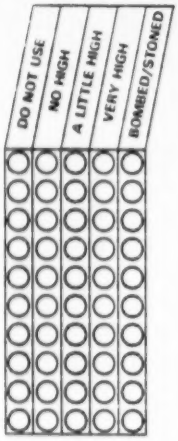
III. WHEN DID YOU FIRST

	NEVER USED	YEARS OLD: UNDER 10	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	OVER 20
1. Smoke cigarettes?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
2. Drink beer?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
3. Drink wine coolers?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
4. Drink liquor?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
5. Smoke marijuana?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
6. Use cocaine (crack, etc.)?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
7. Use uppers?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
8. Use downers?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
9. Use inhalants (glue, etc.)?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
10. Use hallucinogens (PCP, LSD, etc.)?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
11. Use other drugs?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

IV. WITHIN THE PAST YEAR HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU

	DID NOT USE	ONCE/YEAR	6 TIMES/YR	ONCE/MO	TWICE/MO	ONCE/WEEK	3 TIMES/WK	EVERY DAY
1. Smoked cigarettes?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
2. Drunk beer?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
3. Drunk wine coolers?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
4. Drunk liquor?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
5. Smoked marijuana?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
6. Used cocaine (crack, etc.)?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
7. Used uppers?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
8. Used downers?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
9. Used inhalants (glue, etc.)?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
10. Used hallucinogens (PCP, LSD,etc.)?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
11. Used other drugs?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

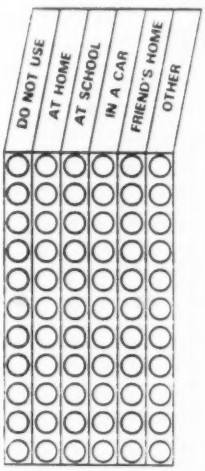
V. WHAT EFFECT DO YOU MOST OFTEN GET WHEN YOU



1. Drink beer?
2. Drink wine coolers?
3. Drink liquor?
4. Smoke marijuana?
5. Use cocaine (crack, etc.)?
6. Use uppers?
7. Use downers?
8. Use inhalants (glue, etc)?
9. Use hallucinogens (PCP, LSD, etc.)?
10. Use other drugs?

VI. WHERE DO YOU

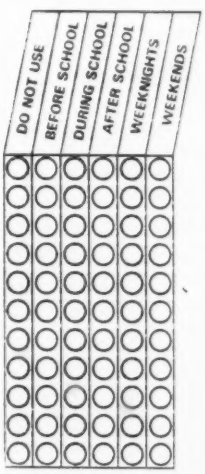
(You may mark more than 1 response for each question)



1. Smoke cigarettes?
2. Drink beer?
3. Drink wine coolers?
4. Drink liquor?
5. Smoke marijuana?
6. Use cocaine (crack, etc.)?
7. Use uppers?
8. Use downers?
9. Use inhalants (glue, etc.)?
10. Use hallucinogens (PCP, LSD, etc)?
11. Use other drugs?

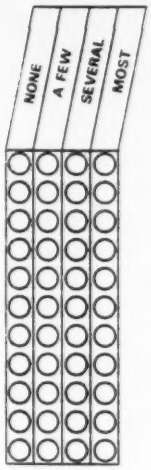
VII. WHEN DO YOU

(You may mark more than 1 response for each question)



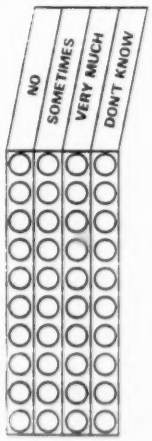
1. Smoke cigarettes?
2. Drink beer?
3. Drink wine coolers?
4. Drink liquor?
5. Smoke marijuana?
6. Use cocaine (crack, etc.)?
7. Use uppers?
8. Use downers?
9. Use inhalants (glue, etc.)?
10. Use hallucinogens (PCP, LSD, etc.)?
11. Use other drugs?

VIII. HOW MANY OF YOUR FRIENDS



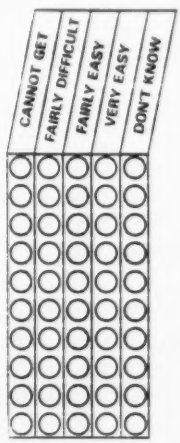
1. Smoke cigarettes?
2. Drink beer?
3. Drink wine coolers?
4. Drink liquor?
5. Smoke marijuana?
6. Use cocaine (crack, etc.)?
7. Use uppers?
8. Use downers?
9. Use inhalants (glue, etc.)?
10. Use hallucinogens (PCP, LSD, etc.)?
11. Use other drugs?

IX. DO YOU FEEL THE FOLLOWING DRUGS ARE HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH?



1. Cigarettes
2. Beer
3. Wine coolers
4. Liquor
5. Marijuana
6. Cocaine (crack, etc.)
7. Uppers
8. Downers
9. Inhalants (glue, etc)
10. Hallucinogens (PCP, LSD, etc.)

X. HOW EASY IS IT TO GET



1. Beer?
2. Wine coolers?
3. Liquor?
4. Marijuana?
5. Cocaine (crack, etc.)?
6. Uppers?
7. Downers?
8. Inhalants (glue, etc.)?
9. Hallucinogens (PCP, LSD, etc.)?
10. Other drugs?